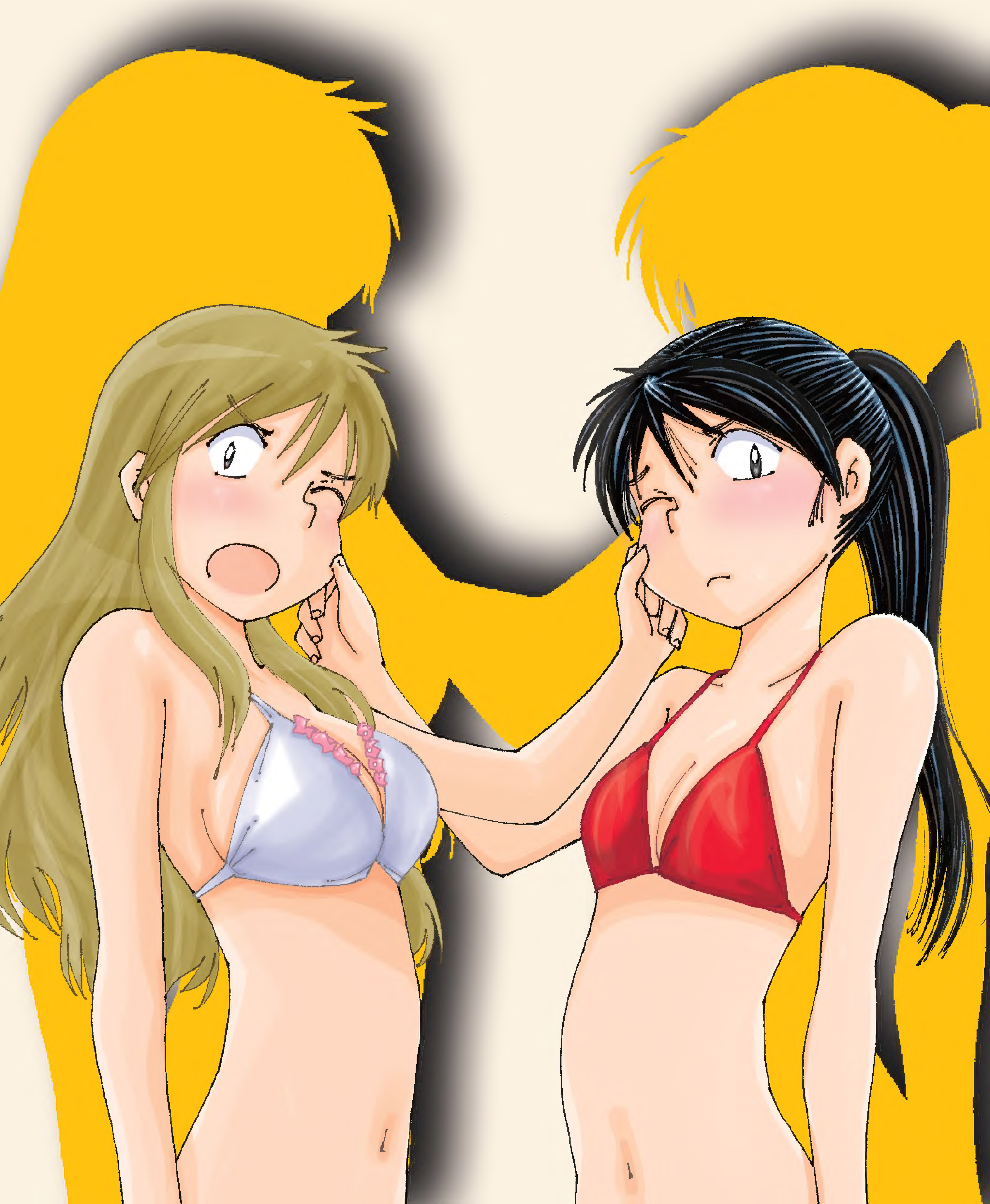
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

6

RIICHI UESHIBA



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VERTICAL COMICS

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

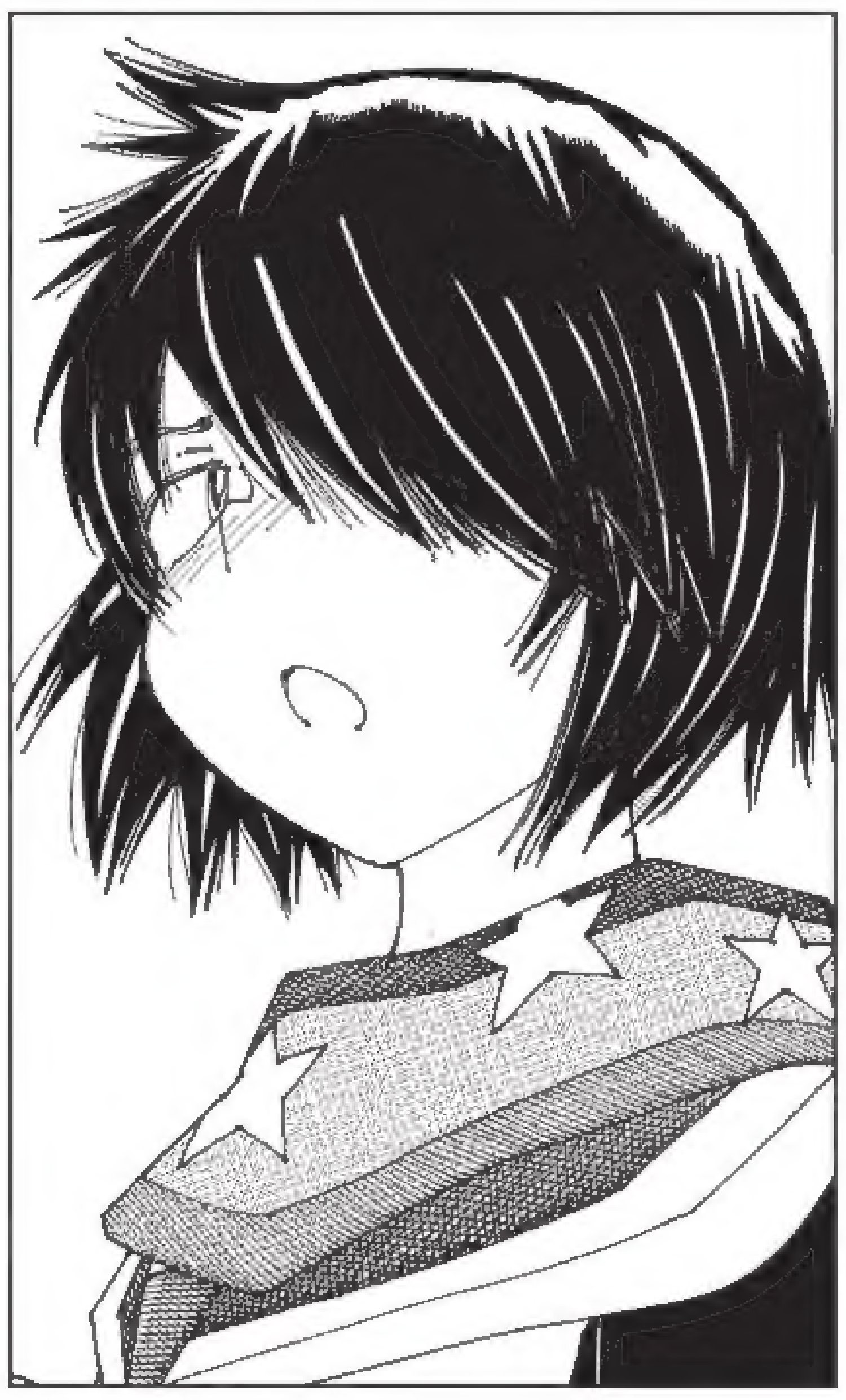
6

RIICHI UESHIBA

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

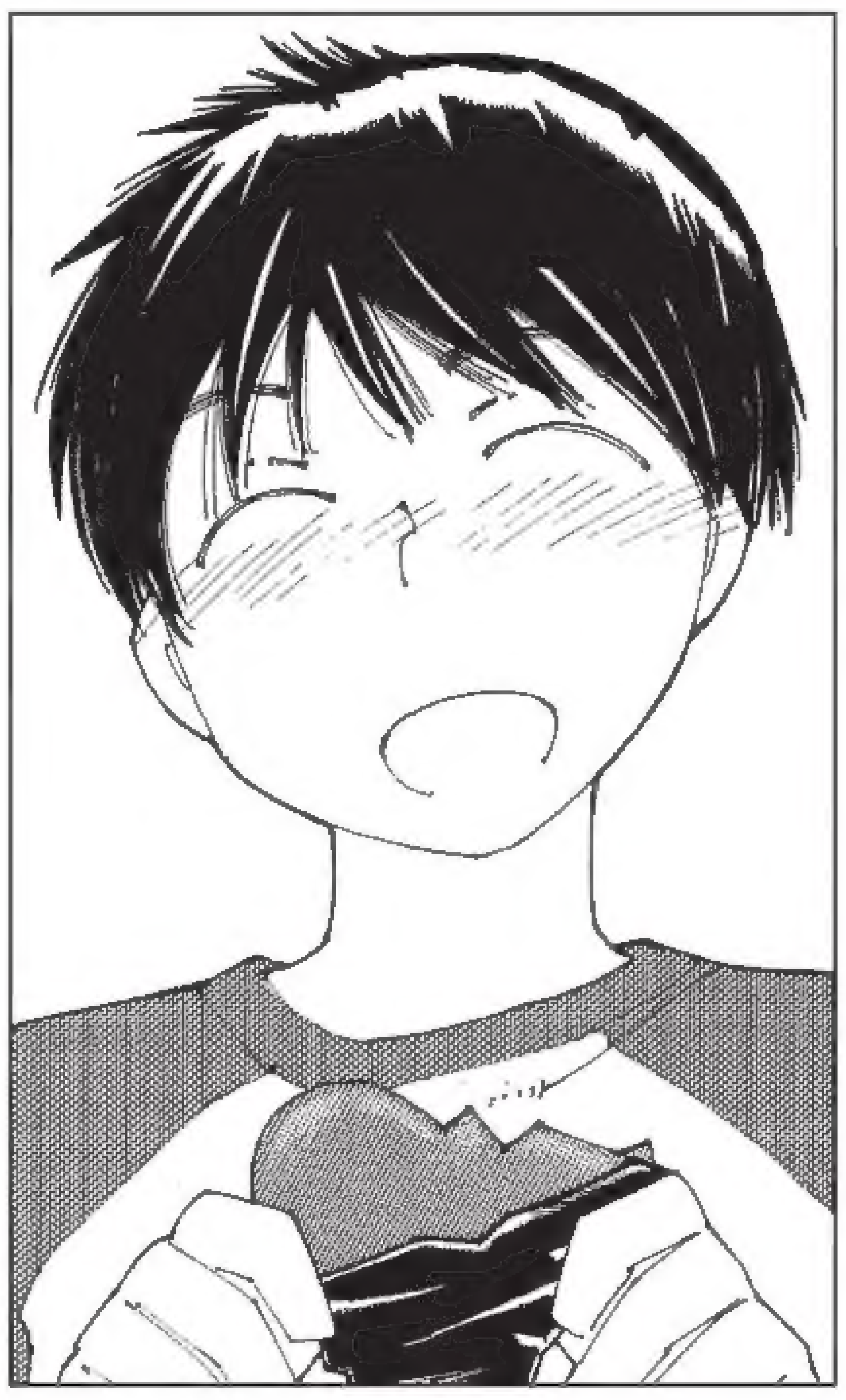
Characters

Mikoto Urabe (17)



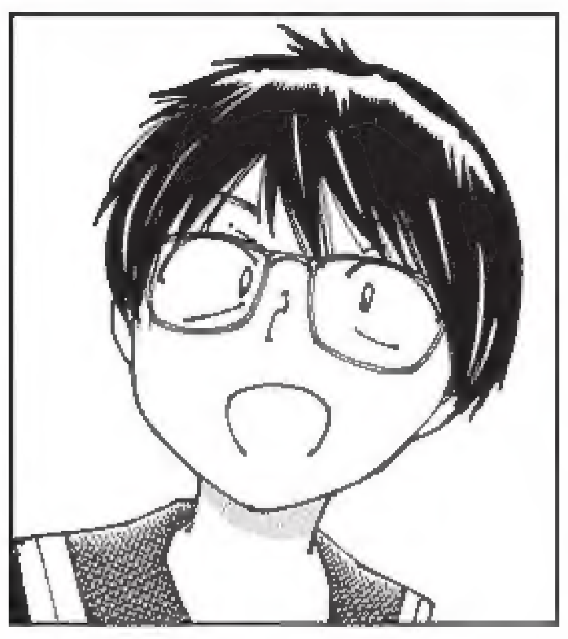
A transfer student who joined Tsubaki's class. She can convey her own feelings through her drool, as well as pick up on Tsubaki's feelings through his. She's antisocial and everything she says and does is mysterious, but her ideas about love are very pure. Her hobby is using scissors, which she can use to cut up anything.

Akira Tsubaki (17)



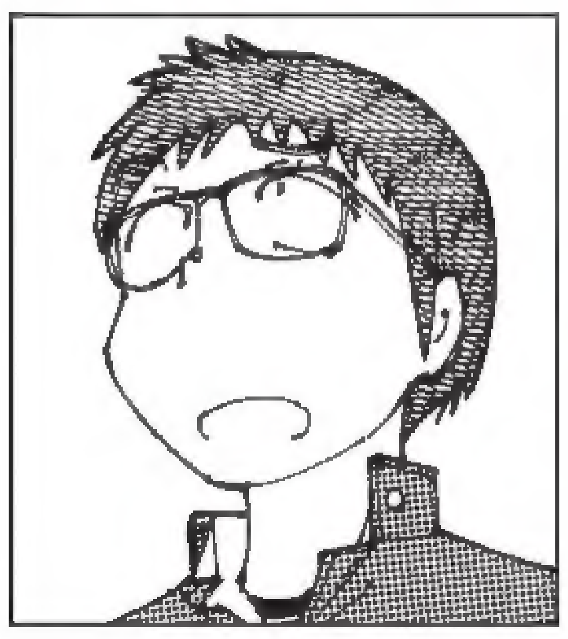
The protagonist of the story. His bizarre relationship with Urabe began after he licked her drool one day. He is as interested in girls as any boy his age, but Urabe takes the lead in their relationship and Tsubaki can't seem to initiate any progress between them.

Ayuko Oka (17)



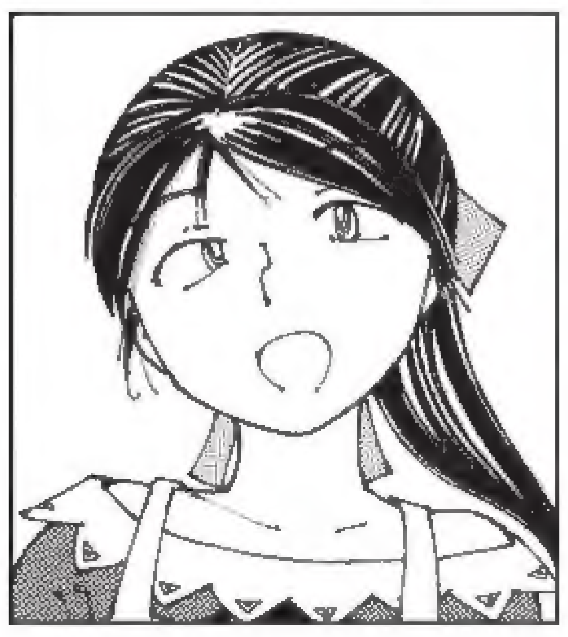
At 4'8", she's very small, but her figure is well-developed and quite gorgeous. She is Ueno's girlfriend. She often toys with Urabe through her impish personality. Like Tsubaki, she is responsive to Urabe's drool.

Kouhei Ueno (17)



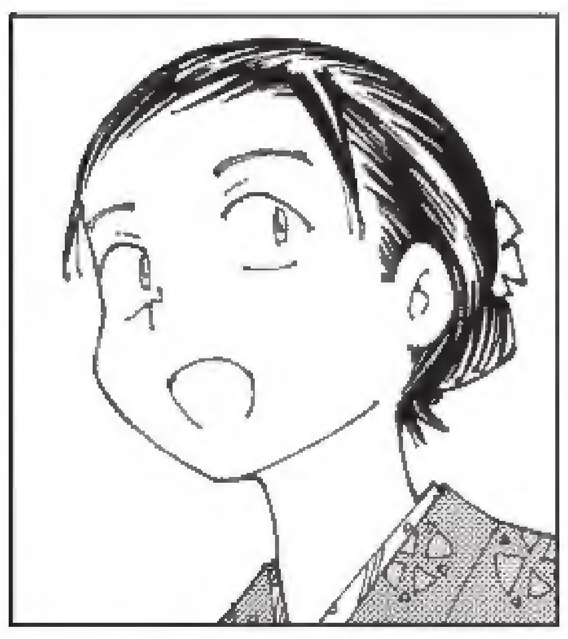
Tsubaki's best friend. He's been going out with their classmate, Oka, since they were sophomores. Ueno's fond way of talking about Oka frequently influences Tsubaki's ideas about relationships.

Ryouko Suwano (17)



Tsubaki's classmate who shares his class duties. Her drooping eyes are her most charming feature. She knows Tsubaki and Urabe are dating, and what their "routine" is.

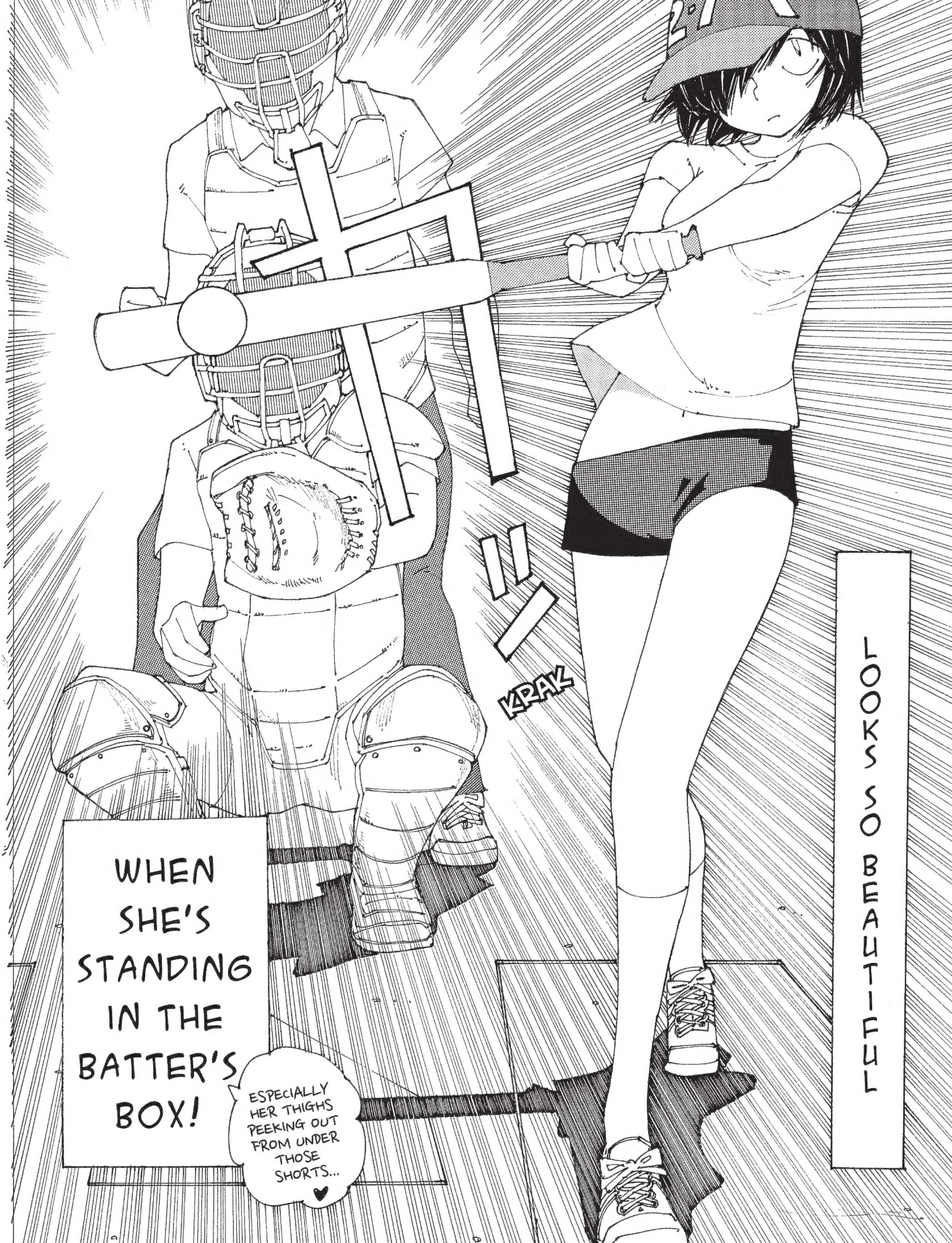
Youko Tsubaki (24)



Akira's sister, seven years his senior. She handles all the housework in place of their mother, who died when they were young. Akira is highly indebted to her.

I'M REALIZING
ALL OVER AGAIN...
GULP
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER QUITE LIKE THIS BEFORE...
ザッ
SHFF
MY GIRLFRIEND...
ビュッ
WHOOSH
URABE!
YOU CAN DO IT!!
VIC
TORY
ザッ
ZHFF
ビュッ
ZWIPP

CHAPTER 77: MYSTERIOUS SOFTBALL


LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL
ッ
KRAK
WHEN SHE'S STANDING IN THE BATTER'S BOX!
ESPECIALLY HER THIGHS PEEKING OUT FROM UNDER THOSE SHORTS... ♥

コオーーーンッ
VWOOOOM
ワァーーアア…
RAAAAAH
2-A
URABE!
RUN, KEEP RUNNING!!
IT'S MAY.
THE IDEAL SEASON FOR SPORTS.
AND TODAY WE'RE HAVING A CO-ED INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.

OUR CLASS, 2-A, WENT ON A WINNING STREAK,
AND MADE IT TO THE FINALS.
NOW IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE 3RD INNING, AND WE'RE UP BY 2 POINTS.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2C 0 1 0
2A 2 1
WHAP
BALL!
FOUR BALLS!
TAKE YOUR BASE!
KLATTER
HEY, UMP!
PITCHER CHANGE!
YOSHIKAWA WILL REPLACE TANABE!
YOU'RE GOING IN, YOSHIKAWA?
IT'S NEARLY MY TURN, ISN'T IT?

AH,
LOOKS LIKE 2-C
IS CHANGING PITCHERS.
AH!
IT'S...
YOSHIKAWA!
YOSHIKAWA?
SHE'S REALLY WELL-KNOWN IN CERTAIN CIRCLES.
WELL-KNOWN? WHY?
"WHY?"
OBVIOUSLY...
KSHAK
ZIP...
ZIIIIIIIIIIPP

SHE'S WELL-KNOWN FOR HER GORGEOUS FIGURE!
KSHAK
KSHAK
ESPECIALLY THOSE BOOBS ...♥
UENO!
YOU'RE UP TO BAT NEXT!
WHAP
OH!

SHFF
VWOOSH
WHOA!
NICE PITCH!
2-A
KRING
2-A
WHOOSH
THWACK
2-C
ACK!!
OOPS ...
SORRY!

HUH?
!!
HUB BUB
!!
HUB BUB
WIN!! 2-C
WHAT?!
W...
WAIT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HITTING YOSHIKAWA?!
YOU JERK!
KRAK
WHOA!!
WHAT IF THAT HAD HIT HER FACE?!
HEY!
STOP...
THWAK
BAMM
STOP THAT!
WHAT THE HELL...
THAT YOSHIKAWA GIRL
IS PRETTY POPULAR, HUH?
KSHAK
YUP.
SHE'S THE IDOL OF ALMOST ALL THE GUYS IN 2-C.

I GUESS SHE IS PRETTY CUTE...
2-C
2-A
VWOOSH
SWING
OOOOOHH!
おおーっ

KRIING
ZOOOM
I LOST IT!!
TSUBAKI!
WHIP
SHFF
HUH?
CATCH
GRAB

カッ
WHAMM
AAACK!
WHOA!!
ド
ドタッ
TUMBLE
OW...
OUCH...
OH, GEEZ...
コロコロ...
ROLL ROLL
S...
SAFE!!

I'M SO SORRY!
I WAS SO FOCUSED ON RUNNING
THAT I RAN INTO YOU...
NAH,
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT!
BRUSH
BRUSH
A GIRL'S BOOBS WERE ON ME...
SUCH BIG BREASTS
ON TOP OF ME...
2-C
3 4 5
0 2 1
0 0
AWW...
THEY GOT AHEAD OF US BY A RUN AT SOME POINT...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE LOST OUR STRIDE
SINCE THAT YOSHIKAWA GIRL FROM 2-C CAME ON.
OUR BOYS HAVE, ANYWAYS...
SWUP
STRIKE!
YER OUT!
WHAP

SHE'S UP TO BAT NOW...
MY EYES JUST KEEP GOING TO THE PITCHER'S CHEST...
I... I GOTTA STOP THAT! I'M NOT WATCHING THE BALL...
ビュッ
VWOOSH
THE BOY I RAN INTO IS ON SECOND...
グッ
GRIP
カキッ
KRIING

IT'S UP!!
POP FLY!
TSUBAKI!
GOT IT!
ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT...
WHEN SHE RAN INTO ME EARLIER...
HER CHEST WAS SO SOFT...
HUH?!
PLUNK
ポトッ
HEY!
TSU-BAKI!!
S...
SORRY!
FWOOSH
CATCH

COME ON, BOYS!!
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING TOO MANY DUMB MISTAKES!
ESPECIALLY YOU, TSUBAKI!
YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON THE GAME!
S...
SORRY...
LOOKS LIKE
THAT YOSHIKAWA GIRL
HAS GOT TSUBAKI MARKED...
HUH...?
SHE'S ACTUALLY
REALLY GOOD AT SOFTBALL...
IT'S OBVIOUS SHE'S GUNNING FOR TSUBAKI.
TSUBAKI IS A PRETTY SIMPLE-MINDED GUY, RIGHT?
I BET
TSUBAKI'S SLUMP STARTED WHEN
SHE RAN INTO HIM...

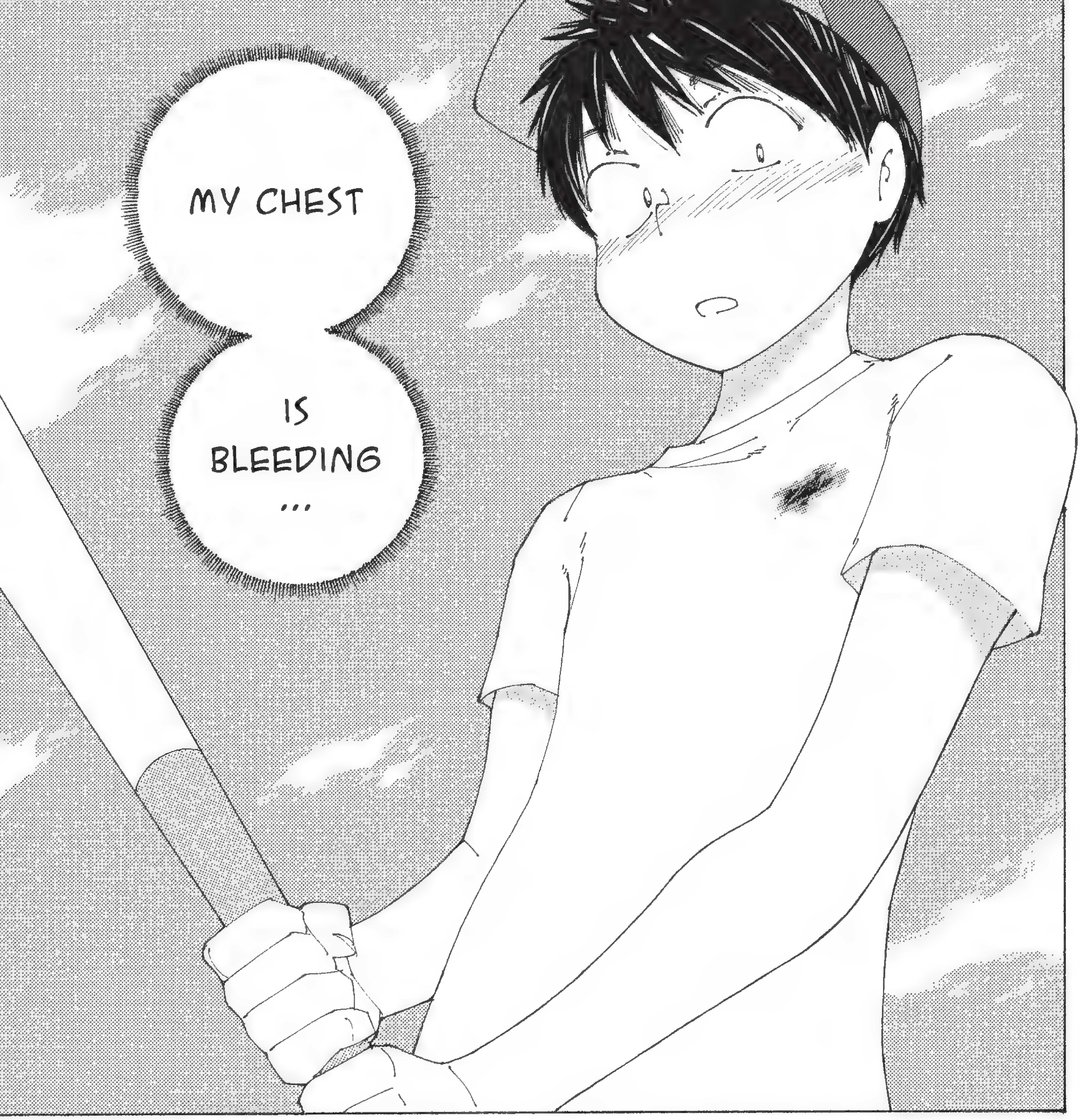
TSUBAKI NEEDS TO
GET HER OUT OF HIS MIND,
OR HE'S NEVER
GONNA GET OUT OF THAT SLUMP.
KRAAAAK
LEAAP
KEEP RUN-NING!
KEEP RUN-NING!
URABE!
RAAAAAAAH
SLIIIIDE

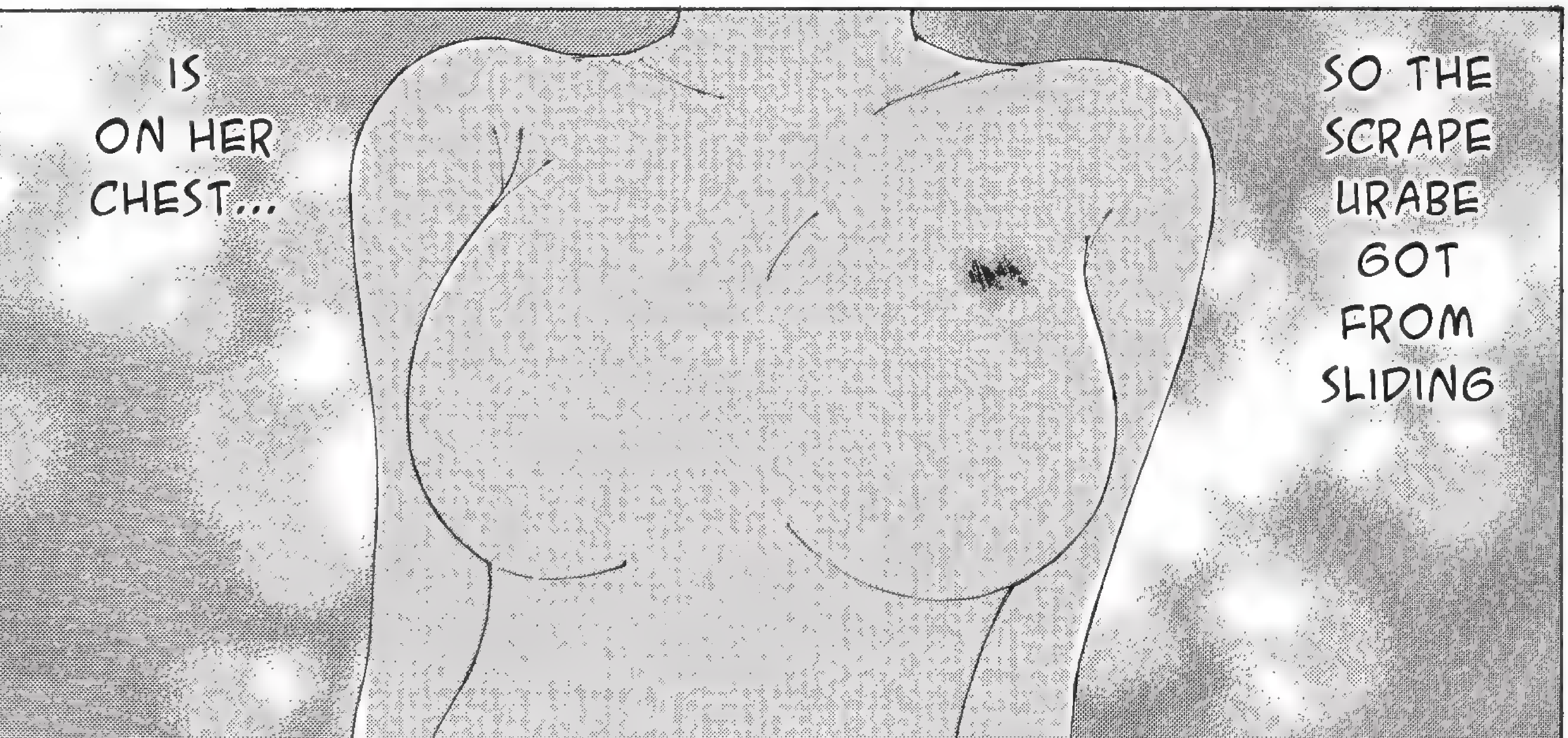
OUT!!
ドサ
WHUMP
A...
ARE YOU OKAY,
URABE?
...
I GOT A LITTLE SCRAPE...
IT'S
BLEEDING...
WHAT?!
WHERE?!

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE,
YOUR ARMS AND LEGS
DON'T HAVE ANY SCRAPES...
カキ
KRIIING
YEAH!
GO!
UENO!
ワァァ
RAAAH
RUN, RUN!!
YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHERE I GOT SCRAPED?
ワァァ
RAAAAAAH
HUH?
SHLP
ちゅ

SHLUP
TORY
VIC
RAAAAAAAAAH
ワアアアア
ぽん
SPOP
ALL RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT A MAN ON BASE!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE A FINAL COMEBACK!
2 3 4 5 6
1 0 0
0 0
NEXT!
TSU-BAKI!
KNOCK 'EM DEAD!
OH...
YEAH!

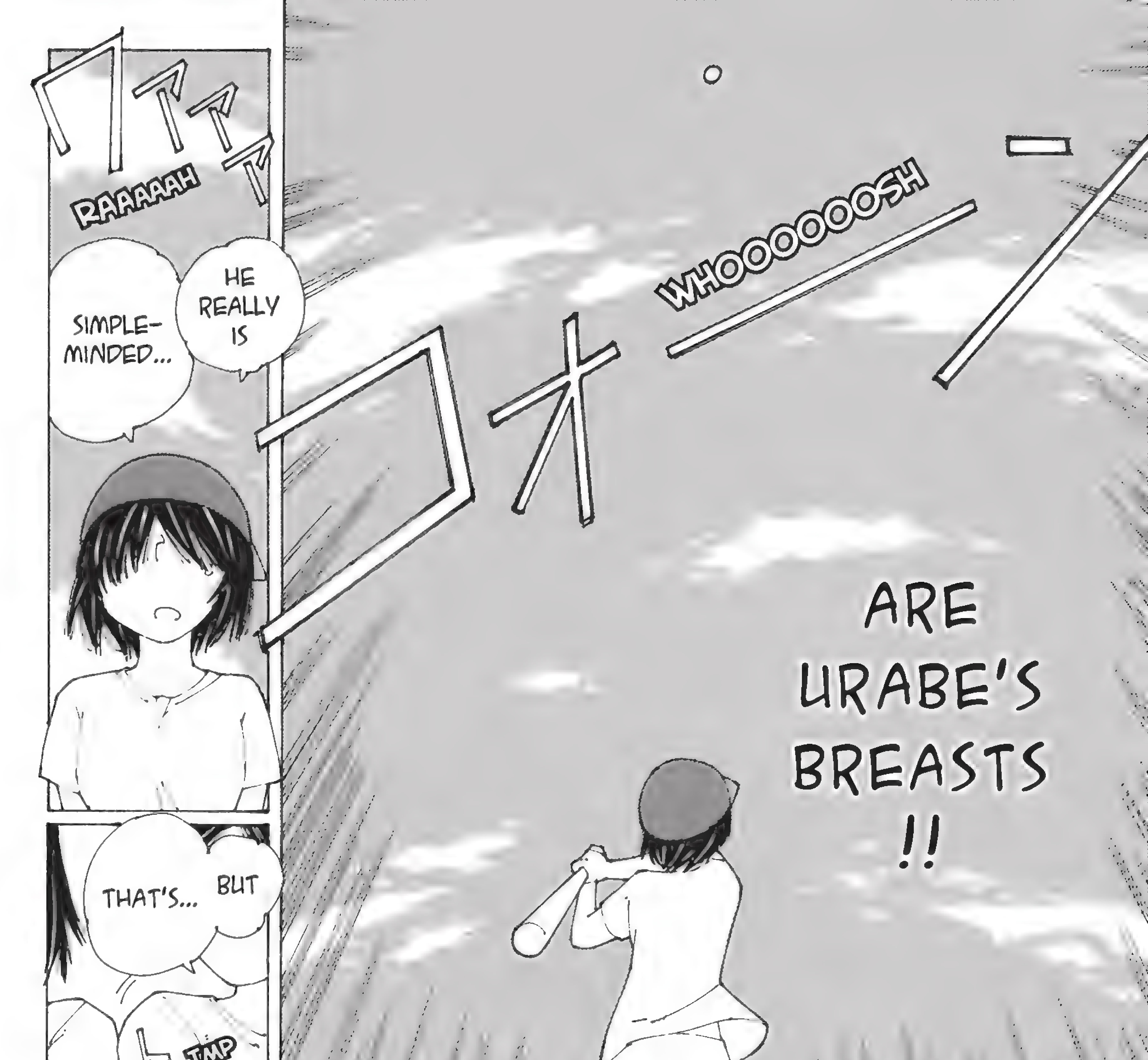
SHE SAID SHE WAS BLEEDING...
URABE...
WHERE DID SHE GET HURT...?
WHERE DID SHE GET HURT ...?
!


MY CHEST
IS BLEEDING …


SO THE SCRAPE URABE GOT FROM SLIDING
IS ON HER CHEST…

URABE IS TRYING SO HARD.
SHE HURT HERSELF... SCRAPED HER CHEST UNTIL IT BLED...
AND YET I...
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING...?
GRIP

BAM
THE ONLY BREASTS FOR ME...
WOOSH
KRAAAK


ARE URABE'S BREASTS !!
コォーン
WHOOOOOOSH
ワァァァ
RAAAAAH
HE REALLY IS
SIMPLE-MINDED...
BUT
THAT'S...
ト
TMP
WHAT MAKES TSUBAKI
SO CUTE!
...
MVP
2-A
WINNERS 2-A

END OF CHAPTER 77

ザァァァ…
ZHAAAA
ROUND No.
PACHI
KAZAMIDAI SHOPPING DISTRICT
PREP
Melon
Cafe
Sweets ShoCoLa
TakeYa
YOU COM Cram School
SLOT MACHINES PACHINKO
EFANGELION
NEON XXXX
ザァァァ…
ZHAAA
MOTH MAN
UFO
SUPER
!
UHM...
MOTH MAN

CHAPTER 78: MYSTERIOUS DRESS

IF YOU LIKE,
I COULD
SHARE MY UMBRELLA WITH YOU...
HUH?
SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM
¥300
PRE-SALE TICKET NOW ON ALE!
BEE
BEE
STYRISH ROAD
BURNABLE TRASH
FOUR LEAVES

AAH!
URABE!
THE GIRL FROM AKIRA'S CLASS!
FRESH!
SO SER ICE CREAM
SUMMER
YES.
UHM ...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE MY UMBRELLA?
HUH?
I CAN WALK YOU HOME.
REALLY?
MOTH MA
UFO
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND?
NO,
NOT AT ALL!
WELL THEN,
I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.
ザアァー…
ZHAAAAA
THE WEATHER FORECAST SAID THE RAIN WOULDN'T START UNTIL THIS EVENING, SO I WENT OUT TO SHOP...
BUT I GUESS YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CARRY AN UMBRELLA IN THE RAINY SEASON, HUH?
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.
OH, NO,
DON'T BE.

SINCE YOU'RE WALKING ME HOME,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME IN
AND HAVE SOME TEA.
HUH?
UHM ...
IS
TSUBAKI HOME TODAY ...?
OH,
HE'S OUT TODAY.
IT'S SUNDAY, RIGHT...?
HE'S PROBABLY AT UENO'S HOUSE.
BUT I GET IT, I GET IT!
IT'D BE AWKWARD TO RUN INTO A BOY FROM YOUR CLASS
IN HIS HOUSE, RIGHT?
MOTH MAN
UFO
BUT DON'T WORRY.
IT'LL JUST BE US GIRLS THERE.
... OKAY...
ザァァァ…
ZHAAAAAA
BUT STILL...

AASSSSH
THIS RAIN IS REALLY COMING DOWN HARD...
WOW...
ZPAAAAA
IT'S REALLY POURING OUT THERE.
IF YOU WENT OUT ON A DAY LIKE THIS,
YOU'D GET SOAKED, EVEN WITH AN UMBRELLA.
ZHAAAAAAAAA...
UENO!
HUH?
EXPO
AMERICAN
BASEBALL
US
BD
POTATOS
TAR

YOU'VE REALLY BEEN TO
A LOT OF DIFFERENT PLACES WITH OKA...
OH,
THE ALBUM?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE ALWAYS TAKE PICTURES WHEREVER WE GO.
THE RAINY SEASON SHOULD BE OVER SOON.
I'VE GOTTA THINK ABOUT WHERE WE SHOULD GO OVER THE SUMMER...
HUH?
HEY, HEY...!
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS?
THIS PICTURE!
HUH?
IS THERE A BAD PICTURE IN THERE
OR SOMETHING?
"BAD" DOESN'T EVEN COVER IT...
THIS ONE HERE!
LOOK!

OH...
THAT'S YOUKO...
DON'T CALL MY SISTER BY NAME!
WHY DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF HER IN A SWIMSUIT, ANYWAY?
WHEN DID YOU TAKE THIS?
HEY,
YOU REMEMBER WHEN
YOUR SISTER TOOK US BOTH TO THE BEACH IN 6TH GRADE, RIGHT?
SO,
I TOOK ONE PICTURE OF HER, IN SECRET.
GEEZ...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
WELL, YOUR SISTER
WAS MY IDOL BACK THEN.
IDOL?

WELCOME! UENO♪
GETTING TO SEE YOUR SISTER
WAS SOMETHING I LOOKED FORWARD TO WHEN I WENT TO YOUR PLACE.
BEFORE I STARTED DATING OKA,
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I SERIOUSLY WISHED
I COULD BE WITH YOUKO.
HAPPY WEDDING♥
EVEN IF IT MEANT I'D BECOME YOUR OLDER BROTHER ONE DAY, I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY.
BROTHER-IN-LAW!
SHUDDER...
ぞわあああ…
WELL,
EVERY GUY GOES THROUGH A TIME
WHEN HE IDOLIZES A BEAUTIFUL OLDER WOMAN!
UENO,
I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS FOR AGES...
SO I'LL SAY IT NOW!
LISTEN...
YIKES!
I'M DRENCHED!

I'LL BRING YOU A TOWEL.
WAIT RIGHT THERE.
OKAY.
OH...
YOUR T-SHIRT IS SOAKED, TOO.
SUPERMARKET HARU M AYA
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE?
YOU CAN WEAR SOMETHING OF MINE.
OH...
OKAY,
THANK YOU.

LET'S SEE...
HANG UP YOUR WET CLOTHES ON THOSE HANGERS.
HELP YOURSELF TO THE TOWELS ON THE SHELF.
I WORE THAT DRESS WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE...
BUT I THINK IT SHOULD BE ABOUT YOUR SIZE...
TH...
THANK YOU.
SHNK
AH!

IT SEEMS LIKE
A VERY GROWN-UP DRESS...
IT SUITS YOU!
IT REALLY DOES!
YOU LOOK SO CUTE!
JUN 6
S M T W T F S
猫
CAT
I LIKED IT A LOT, SO I WORE IT ALL THE TIME,
BUT IT LOOKS BETTER ON YOU THAN ME!
OH...
NOT AT ALL...
IT MUST BE YOUR YOUTH...
YEP!
IT LOOKS BETTER ON YOU!
I WORE IT A LOT
WHEN I COMMUTED TO SCHOOL..

BUT AKIRA ALWAYS HATED IT
WHENEVER I WORE IT ANYWHERE,
SO I STOPPED WEARING IT SO OFTEN.
HUH...?
TSUBAKI DID...?
BUT IT'S SUCH A CUTE DRESS...
WHY DIDN'T HE LIKE IT?
I'M NOT SURE WHY.
BUT WHENEVER I TRIED TO WEAR IT OUTSIDE...
SIS,
YOU'RE WEARING THAT AGAIN?
YOU SHOULD WEAR SOMETHING ELSE.
SUMMER
HE'D SAY THAT EVERY TIME!
I...
I WONDER WHY...
WELL, HE HAD JUST STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I GUESS HE WAS JUST AT AN AWKWARD AGE?
ザァァァ…
ZHAAAAAAA...
UENO,
I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS FOR AGES,
SO I'LL SAY IT NOW!
LISTEN...
WH...
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SISTERS, RIGHT?
NO,
JUST AN OLDER BROTHER.
SO YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT WHEN OTHER GUYS SHOW INTEREST IN YOUR OWN SISTER AS A WOMAN...
WELL...
IT'S A REALLY AWFUL FEELING.
MEN
MEN
MEN
MEN
MEN
MEN
MEN
MEN

SO HEARING THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT MY SISTER THAT WAY
JUST FEELS REALLY
DISGUSTING TO ME!
I MEAN, YOU USED TO
TAKE BATHS WITH HER WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, RIGHT?
OH?
BUT HOW COULD I NOT?
I WAS REALLY JEALOUS OF YOU FOR A WHILE!
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING THAT BOTHERS ME!
AS SOMEONE WITH A SISTER, THAT'S A VERY DELICATE ISSUE FOR ME!
UNDERSTAND THAT!
AND NEVER SAY STUFF LIKE THAT AGAIN!
UH...
REALLY?
ザァァァ
ZHAAAAA...
ARE YOU...
REALLY SURE?
YUP.
YOUR CLOTHES AREN'T DRY YET, ANYWAY.]

AND BESIDES, IT LOOKS MUCH BETTER ON YOU NOW.
SO I'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP THAT DRESS.
OH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AND I HOPE
YOU'LL CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER AKIRA IN CLASS.
AH...
I WILL!
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME...
ZHAAAA...

AH!
URABE!
TSUBAKI ...
HOW ODD...
I NEVER SEE YOU AROUND HERE!
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
YEAH.
I WAS AT UENO'S PLACE.
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
HUH?
UHM...
WELL...
SNAP
パキッ

URABE,
HAND ME
YOUR UMBRELLA.
HUH?
OH,
OKAY.
すっ SFF
YOU WERE
ON YOUR WAY HOME, TOO, RIGHT?
I'LL WALK YOU TO THE SPOT WHERE WE DO
OUR DAILY ROUTINE.
UH...
OKAY.
YES!
GRIP
I CASUALLY GOT HER TO SHARE AN UMBRELLA WITH ME!

ザァァァァ…
ZHAAAAA
LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN
IS COMING DOWN HARDER AGAIN.
URABE,
YOUR SHOULDER'S NOT WET, IS IT?
A LITTLE,
BUT IT'S OKAY.
TSUBAKI...
HM?
CAN YOU TELL ME
WHAT YOU THINK
OF THIS DRESS?
OH...
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WEAR THAT ONE BEFORE.
DID YOU JUST BUY IT?
IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE.
I SEE...

WELL,
URABE,
I'LL SEE YOU
AT SCHOOL TOMORROW!
AH,
WAIT!
TSUBAKI!
TODAY'S SUNDAY,
BUT SINCE
WE CAME HERE ANYWAY...
OUR ROUTINE.
AH...
OKAY!
ちゅ
SHLP

FLASH
!
AH...
URABE,
THAT DRESS YOU'RE WEARING...
DON'T TELL ME IT'S...

IT IS.
IT'S YOUR SISTER'S DRESS.
I RAN INTO YOUR SISTER DOWNTOWN,
AND I WAS ACTUALLY AT YOUR PLACE UNTIL JUST NOW.
THAT'S WHEN SHE GAVE ME THIS DRESS.
SHE TOLD ME
THAT YOU DIDN'T LIKE THIS DRESS.
ザァァァ…
ZHAAAAAA
WHY IS THAT?
WHEN IT'S SUCH
A CUTE DRESS...
THAT...
THAT'S...
かあああ
BLUUUUSH...
IT...
IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T LIKE IT, REALLY.
BUT THAT DRESS...

WHEN IT GETS WET,
TURNS VERY SEE-THROUGH.
WHEN MY SISTER WAS IN COLLEGE, SHE USED TO WEAR THAT DRESS,
AND WHEN SHE GOT CAUGHT IN A DOWNPOUR ONE DAY...
I'M HOME!
I COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH IT...

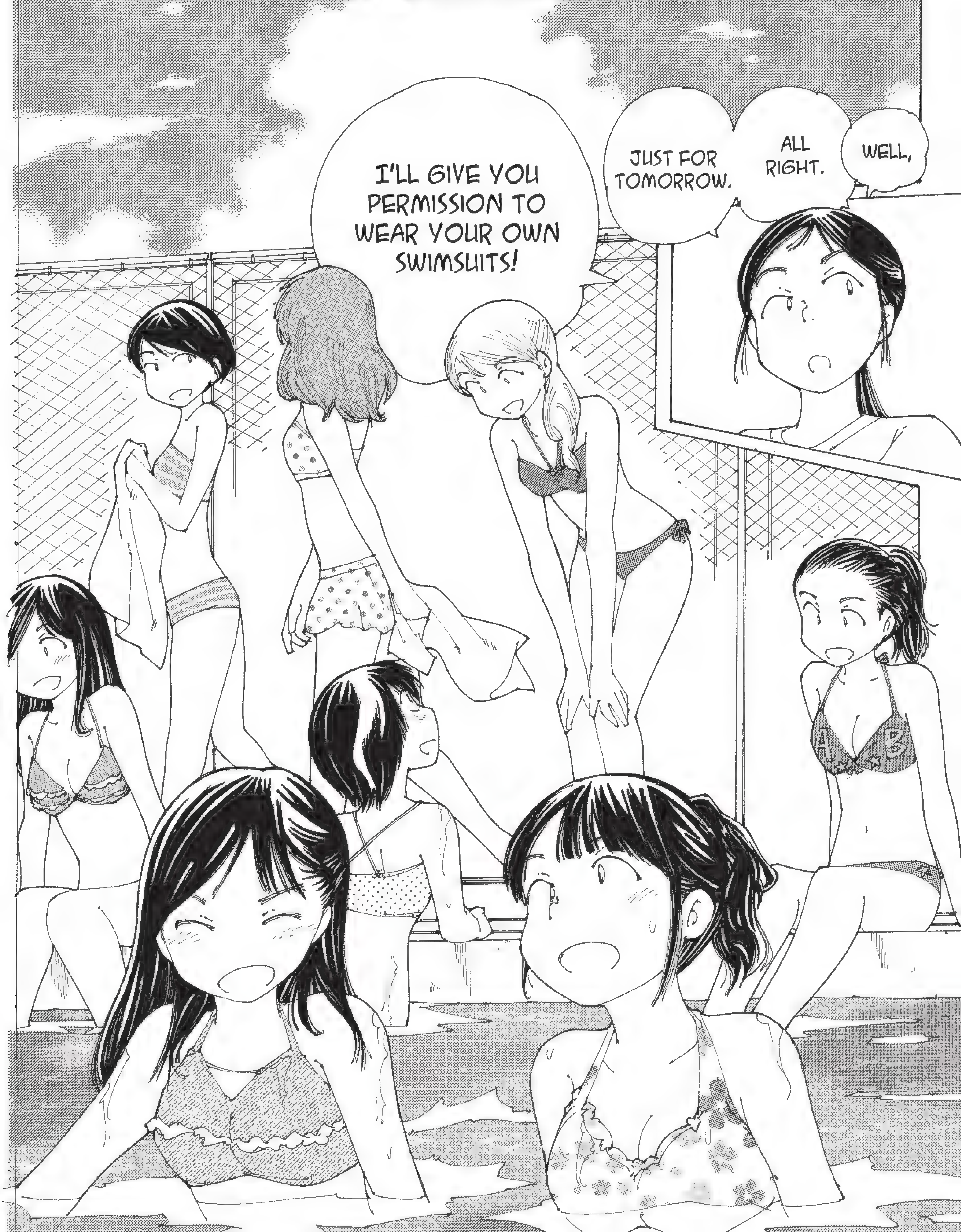
FROM THEN ON,
IF I SAW HER WEARING IT ON DAYS WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE RAIN,
I GOT REALLY WORRIED...
I KNEW GUYS ON THE STREET WOULD STARE AT HER!
GUYS ARE PERVERTED CREATURES, YOU KNOW!
MYSELF INCLUDED!
I JUST DON'T WANT MY SISTER,
OR THE GIRL I LOVE,
HAVING OTHER GUYS STARE AT HER LIKE THAT.
SO YOU CAN WEAR THAT DRESS
WHEN THE WEATHER'S CLEAR...

BUT IF IT'S RAINING,
NEVER WEAR IT!
OKAY...
AND SO, TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I GOT TO SEE URABE SMILE THIS SUMMER.
ザァーァー…
ZHAAAAA...
NOW, ONCE THE RAINY SEASON ENDS,
IT'LL BE SUMMER FOR REAL!

END OF CHAPTER 78

LAST YEAR, THERE WAS ONLY A CHAIN LINK FENCE,
LEAVING THE KAZAMIDAI HIGH SWIMMING POOL IN PLAIN VIEW OF THE BOYS ON THE FIELD...
BUT THIS YEAR, A WALL HAS BEEN BUILT,
CONCEALING THE POOL FROM THE BOYS' CURIOUS EYES.
DAMN...
...
SO ANYWAY,
TEACHER!
FOR SWIM CLASS TOMORROW,
WE'D LIKE YOUR PERMISSION FOR THIS...
HMM...
IT'S
TO CELEBRATE THE REMODELING
OF THE SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL.

CHAPTER 79: MYSTERIOUS POOLSIDE


WELL,
ALL RIGHT.
JUST FOR TOMORROW.
I'LL GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO WEAR YOUR OWN SWIMSUITS!
A B

SPLASH
SPLASH
HEY!
HANG ON,
URABE!
WE AGREED TO SWIM TOGETHER,
AND YET YOU SPEED UP LIKE THAT!
I CAN'T KEEP UP!
SPLASH
SPLASH
OH,
SORRY.
ANYWAY, URABE,
WE ACTUALLY GOT PERMISSION TO WEAR OUR OWN SWIMSUITS,
4
BUT YOU'RE WEARING YOUR SCHOOL SWIMSUIT!
THAT'S NO FUN!
WELL,
I DON'T CARE WHAT I WEAR.
I'M JUST HAPPY TO SWIM.
SEE?
LOOK THERE.
SPLISH...

PWAH
THE ONE SUWANO'S WEARING.
I THINK A BIKINI LIKE THAT
WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU, URABE.
MS. YAMAZAKI! MS. YAMAZAKI!
PLEASE RETURN TO THE FACULTY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.
A VISITOR IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
HUH?
YAJIMA,
I NEED TO TAKE OFF FOR A BIT.
KEEP AN EYE ON EVERYONE FOR ME.
OH,
SURE!
HERE WE GO.
WHUMP
HEY, THERE...
ペタ
THPP
ペタ
THPP

INTERESTED IN
A RACE?
CLASS 2-A VS. CLASS 2-C!
YOU ARE ...
YOSHI-KAWA.
YEP.
THANKS FOR A GREAT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT THE OTHER DAY!
SINCE THE GIRLS OF CLASSES 2-A AND 2-C
HAVE SWIMMING CLASS TOGETHER TODAY,
IT MAKES SENSE TO HAVE A RACE!
LET'S SEE...
I THINK WE SHOULD CHOOSE
3 REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH CLASS
AND DO A RELAY STYLE RACE.
HOW'S THAT SOUND?

ALSO!
SINCE THE TEACHER ISN'T HERE,
THERE'LL BE A PENALTY FOR THE LOSING TEAM!
OKAY?!
THERE.
YOU KNOW THE VENDING MACHINE NEXT TO THE GYM?
COCO
THE THREE LOSERS HAVE TO GO OVER THERE, IN THEIR SWIMSUITS, AND BUY DRINKS FOR THE THREE WINNERS!
AND THE BOYS ARE PLAYING SOCCER IN THE FIELD NEXT TO THE GYM RIGHT NOW...
WHICH MEANS THE LOSERS
OOOOOH!
BLEH!
WOO WOO!
WILL BE SEEN IN THEIR OWN SWIMSUITS!
SO!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
DO YOU ACCEPT,
CLASS 2-A?!

DON'T
JUST
DECIDE EVERYTHING
ON YOUR OWN!
KICK
ACK!
ドボーン
ZPLAASH
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO SELF-CENTERED,
REALLY...
YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT BOTHERED ME SO MUCH ABOUT LOSING THE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT?
IT WAS BECAUSE WE LOST TO YOUR CLASS!
SUWANO!
THIS RACE IS FOR REVENGE!
WHAT?
SUWANO, YOU KNOW YOSHIKAWA?
YEAH,
WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH.

YOU'RE NOT
RUNNING AWAY, ARE YOU,
SUWANO?
AS IF I'D RUN FROM YOU,
YOSHIKAWA!
HUH?
YOU'RE GOING TO RACE?
YES.
I ALREADY KNOW WHO'S RACING FOR OUR CLASS.
ME, YAJIMA, AND URABE.
WE CAME IN FIRST IN OUR GRADE IN THE SWIMMING MATCH, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN TO ME!
KRIK
KRAK
GOOD LUCK,
URABE!
HMM...
FIGHT 2-C!
GO, YAJIMA! ♪

OKAY,
ON YOUR MARKS!
SET!
ピイイイ
PREEET
ドボーン
KA SPLAAAASH
パ…
SPLAASH...
ザパ
SPLASH

WOW...
ザパパパ...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH...
THE GIRL FROM 2-C IS FAST, TOO!
YAJIMA
IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE...
URABE,
REALLY GIVE IT YOUR BEST!
HMM...
...
LISTEN,
URABE...
TSUBAKI SAID HIS FAVORITE SWIMSUIT
IS A RED BIKINI.

WHA...
A RED...
BIKINI...
WHEN WE WERE ON CLASS DUTY TOGETHER,
I ASKED HIM WHAT KIND
OF SWIMSUIT HE LIKED ON A GIRL...
WELL...
I GUESS
A RED BIKINI IS THE TYPICAL ANSWER...
WAS HIS ANSWER.
IF WE LOSE,
TSUBAKI
WILL SEE ME
IN THIS SWIMSUIT...

SMACK
DIVE
SPLASH
SPLASH
LEAP
SORRY !!
URABE
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!
KA
SPLAASH
SPLASH

URABE IS
SO FAST!
SHE'S CLOSING THE GAP...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SHE PASSED HER!
SPLAASH
ZHA
RGH...
KEEP IT UP!
URABE!
SMACK
DIVE

SMACK
DIVE
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLAASH
WHOA !!
SHE'S FAST!
FOR SOMEONE
WITH SUCH HEAVY BOOBS,
YOSHIKAWA IS FAST...
WHO'S GOING TO WIN?!

PREEEEEET
CLASS A WINS!!
SMACK
TCH...
SMACK
IT'S ALL BECAUSE
YOU TOOK THE LEAD IN YOUR LAP, URABE.
THANKS.
OH...
BY THE WAY,
THE THING ABOUT TSUBAKI LIKING RED BIKINIS
WAS A LIE.
WHEW...
THAT WAS CLOSE...
WHAT?
I THOUGHT IF I SAID THAT,
IT WOULD MAKE YOU TAKE THIS RACE SERIOUSLY...

OKAY, YOU THREE!
LIKE YOU SAID,
YOU HAVE TO GO BUY US DRINKS IN YOUR SWIMSUITS!
HMPH...
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO!
HUH?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TOO UPSET.
SHE ALWAYS LIKES TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
SEEING SOMEONE ELSE EMBARRASS THEMSELVES
OR BEING SEEN BY BOYS IN HER SWIMSUIT...
EITHER ONE WOULD BE A WIN FOR HER.
LET'S GO!
UH...
OKAY!
ザワ
MURMUR
I WONDER HOW IT'LL GO...
ザワ
MURMUR

WE CAN WATCH OVER THE WALL.
ガシャ
GSHAK
ガシャ
GSHAK
ガシャ
GSHAK
WHAAAA?!
SHEEEEH?!
WOOOOW♡♡
...
POKE POKE

PLASTIC,
HUH...
OH,
THERE THEY GO!
I WONDER HOW THE BOYS WILL REACT.
THUP
EXCITING!
バッ
WHIP
カラカラカラ
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN

ド
SHOOM
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
ジャキ
ッ
ジャキ
ジャキ
ジャキ
HEY!
PASS! PASS!

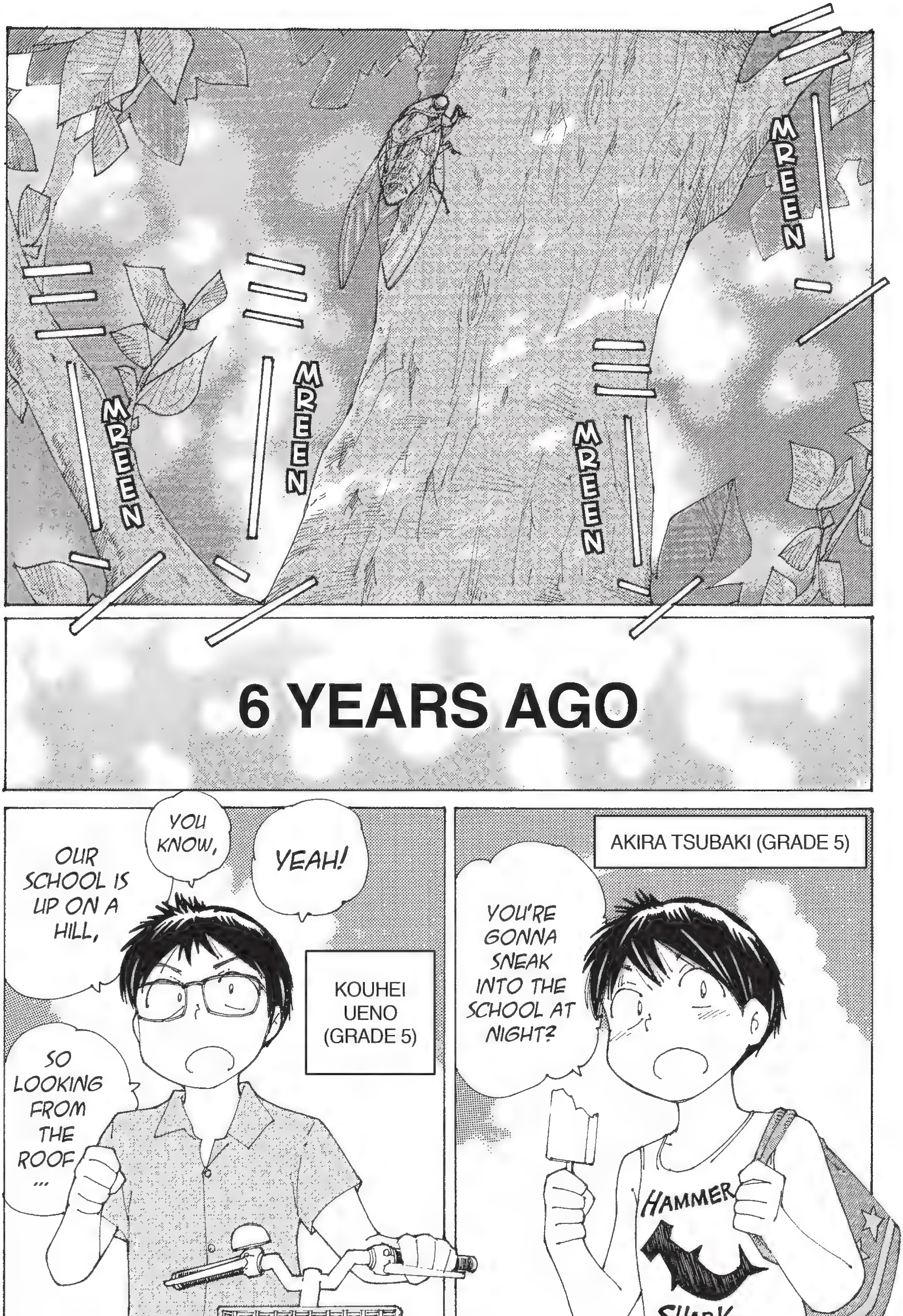
バララララ…
SHATTER...

WHA...
WHA...
きゃあああああ
YAAAAAH!
H...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!!
WHEW...
HEY! GET BACK HERE!
SORRY!
おおおお
OOOOOOOH!
ドドドドド
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
URABE...

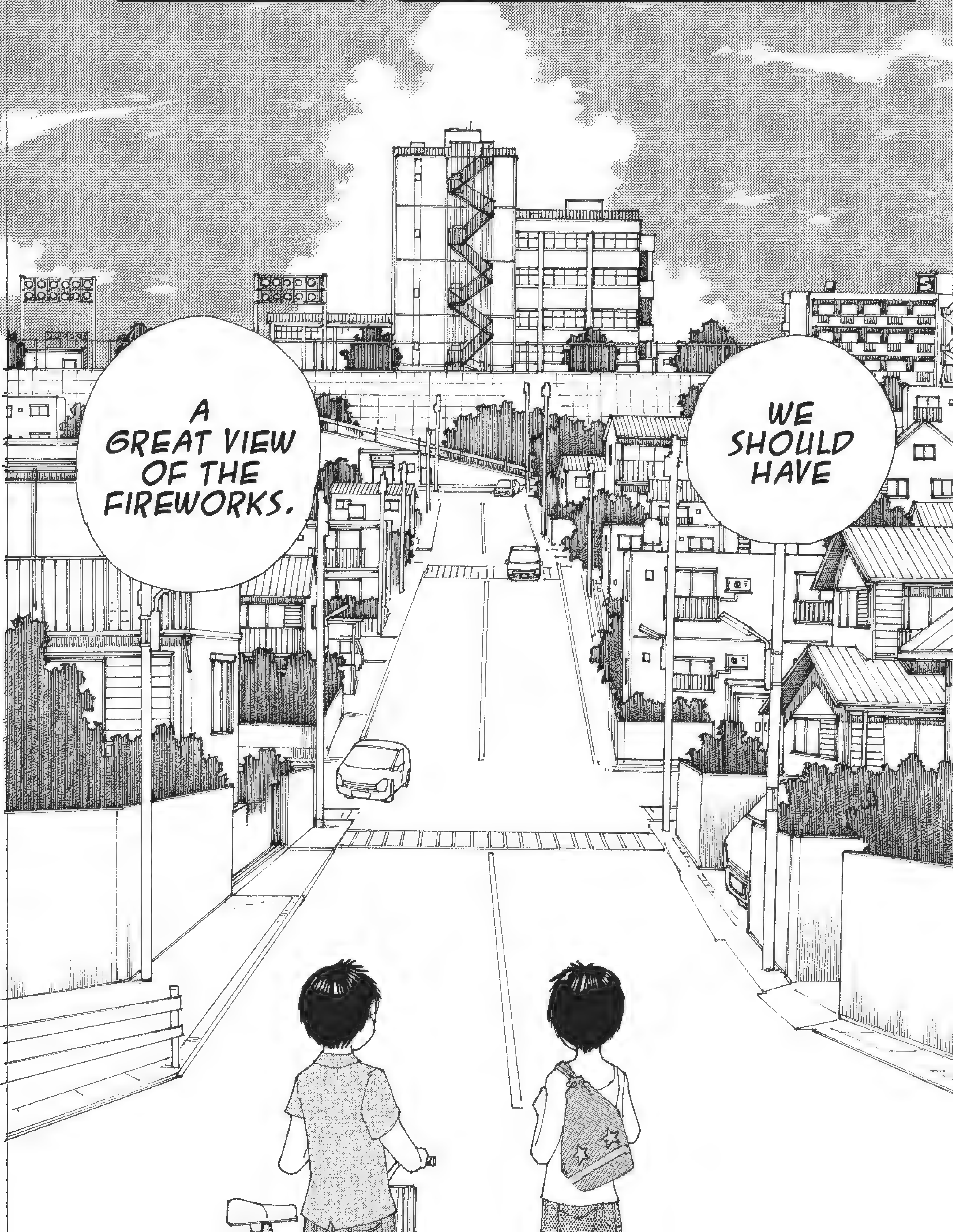
DURING GYM CLASS TODAY,
THE WALL BY THE POOL SUDDENLY CAME DOWN.
WAS THAT, BY ANY CHANCE,
YOUR DOING?
I WONDER ...
SO, TSUBAKI,
WHEN THE WALL CAME DOWN,
DID YOU SEE ANY
OF THE GIRLS' SWIMSUITS?
AH, WELL,
SUDDENLY ALL I COULD SEE
WAS THE COLOR OF GIRLS' BARE SKIN...
I COULDN'T TELL WHO WAS WHO.
ROSWELL
BY THE WAY,
WHAT KIND OF SWIMSUIT WERE YOU WEARING?
MY REGULAR
SCHOOL SWIMSUIT.
WASN'T TODAY THE DAY
HUH?
WHEN YOU WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR YOUR OWN?

I HAD ALREADY DECIDED
THAT I WOULD SAVE MY NEW SWIMSUIT
FOR THE BEACH THIS SUMMER,
SO I USED MY SCHOOL SWIMSUIT TODAY.
HUH?
YOU ALREADY HAVE PLANS
TO GO TO THE BEACH?
NO,
NOT YET.
TH...
THEN...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO THERE WITH ME?

END OF CHAPTER 79


MREEN
MREEN
MREEN
MREEN
6 YEARS AGO
OUR SCHOOL IS UP ON A HILL,
YOU KNOW,
YEAH!
SO LOOKING FROM THE ROOF ...
KOUHEI UENO (GRADE 5)
AKIRA TSUBAKI (GRADE 5)
YOU'RE GONNA SNEAK INTO THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT?
HAMMER SHARK

CHAPTER 80: MYSTERIOUS FIREWORKS


WE SHOULD HAVE
A GREAT VIEW OF THE FIREWORKS.

THE PRESENT
カン CLANG
カン CLANG
カン CLANG
LUNAR MODULE
MART
URTER
YA
AKIRA TSUBAKI (GRADE 11)
OH, YEAH, TOMORROW'S THE FESTIVAL...
LUNAR
I WANT TO INVITE URABE...
BUT IT'S KAZAMIDAI'S FESTIVAL,
SO A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM SCHOOL WILL BE THERE.
BALLS
OCTOPU
FESTIVAL
IF WE GO TOGETHER,
PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT WE'RE DATING.
HM?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
THERE'S A FIREWORKS SHOW DOWNTOWN TOMORROW...

AH...
HEY,
URABE,
YOU KNOW ABOUT TOMORROW'S FIREWORKS SHOW DOWNTOWN, RIGHT?
WELL,
ONCE, WHEN WE WERE KIDS, UENO AND I
SNUCK INTO OUR SCHOOL AT NIGHT TO WATCH THEM.
'CAUSE KAZAMIDAI ELEMENTARY
IS UP ON A HILL.

FROM THE SCHOOL ROOF,
ドドー
KABOOM
THE VIEW WAS PERFECT
ドー
BOOM
FOR WATCHING THE FIREWORKS DOWNTOWN.
ドー
BOOM
HAMMER
SO I WAS THINKING, IF YOU WANT TO,
YOU AND I COULD SNEAK UP THERE TOMORROW TO WATCH THEM...
LUNAR
SO...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

THAT SOUNDS KIND OF...
INTERESTING...
Y... YEAH?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
HER EYE WAS WIDE OPEN...
OKAY.
I'D LIKE TO SEE THE FIREWORKS FROM THE ROOF OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
R... REALLY?!
OKAY,
I'LL MEET YOU TOMORROW AT 7:30
AT THE SCHOOL'S REAR ENTRANCE!
URABE
AGREED MORE EASILY THAN I EXPECTED...
IS SHE INTO STUFF LIKE SNEAKING INTO SCHOOL AFTER HOURS?
SHAAAA
LUNAR
MODULE

TSUBAKI,
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
URABE!
I DRESSED IN THE LIGHTEST CLOTHES I HAD.
OH,
GOOD IDEA!
1952
UFO
GLANCE GLANCE
1952
GSHANG
1952
GRAB HOLD,
URABE.

WOW...
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME BACK SINCE GRADUATION.
GRADE SCHOOL...
WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE WIND
YOU SAID
YOU AND UENO
HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL, HUH?
YEAH.
WE MET WHEN WE WERE PUT IN THE SAME CLASS IN 4TH GRADE,
AND WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE.
SO,
YOU GET ALONG REALLY WELL.
195
WELL,
WE ACTUALLY FOUGHT A LOT IN GRADE SCHOOL, THOUGH.
WE'D GRAPPLE AND EVERYTHING.
OF COURSE, WE DON'T ANYMORE,
BUT BACK THEN, WE FOUGHT ABOUT ONCE A MONTH,
OVER THE DUMBEST, LITTLE THINGS.
UFO

WE'LL GO UP THESE EMERGENCY STAIRS.
NOW WE JUST GO OVER THIS FENCE...
GSHANG
WHOOOO
YOU OKAY?!
1952
YEAH ...
I'M FINE.
TPP

WOW...
IT'S SO PRETTY...
YEAH.
THIS SCHOOL IS BUILT ON THE HIGHEST POINT IN TOWN.
OH,
THERE'S THE FESTIVAL, IN THE PARK.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I REALLY WANTED TO GO THERE WITH YOU,
BUT WE'D PROBABLY BUMP INTO CLASSMATES.
THAT'S WHY
I PICKED THIS PLACE
AS AN ALTERNATE PLAN.
7

I'M PRETTY SURE THE FIREWORKS START
AT 8:00.
THAT'S ABOUT 10 MORE MINUTES...
BUT,
STANDING HERE,
LOOKING AT THE TOWN AT NIGHT,
REMINDS ME OF WHEN
I CAME UP HERE WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
WHAT DOES IT REMIND YOU OF?
LIKE,
THINGS I TALKED ABOUT WITH UENO AT THE TIME...
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
WHAT'D WE TALK ABOUT?
WELL...
OH...

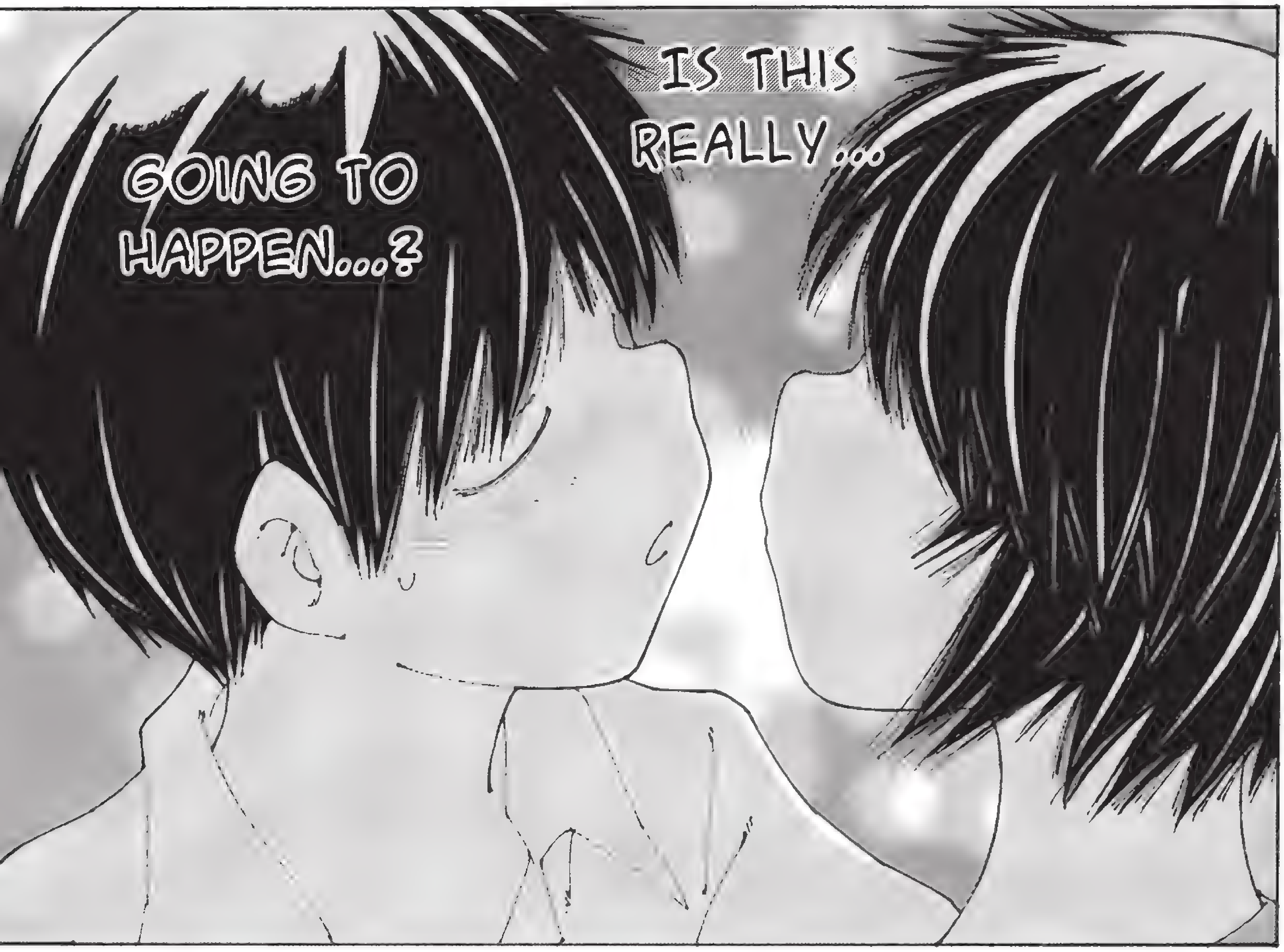
TSUBAKI, DID YOU HEAR?
SUGINO FROM OUR CLASS
KISSED ANZAI FROM CLASS 3.
FOR REAL?!
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT?
THE GIRLS WERE TALKING ABOUT IT.
MAN, REALLY?
ANZAI IS REALLY CUTE!
I WANNA CALL OUT SUGINO AND PUNCH HIM!!
HAMMER SHARK
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER KISS A GIRL ...
IF THAT EVER HAPPENS,
I'LL KISS ONE BEFORE YOU DO!
HUH?
HAMMER SHARK
DON'T SAY DUMB CRAP LIKE THAT!

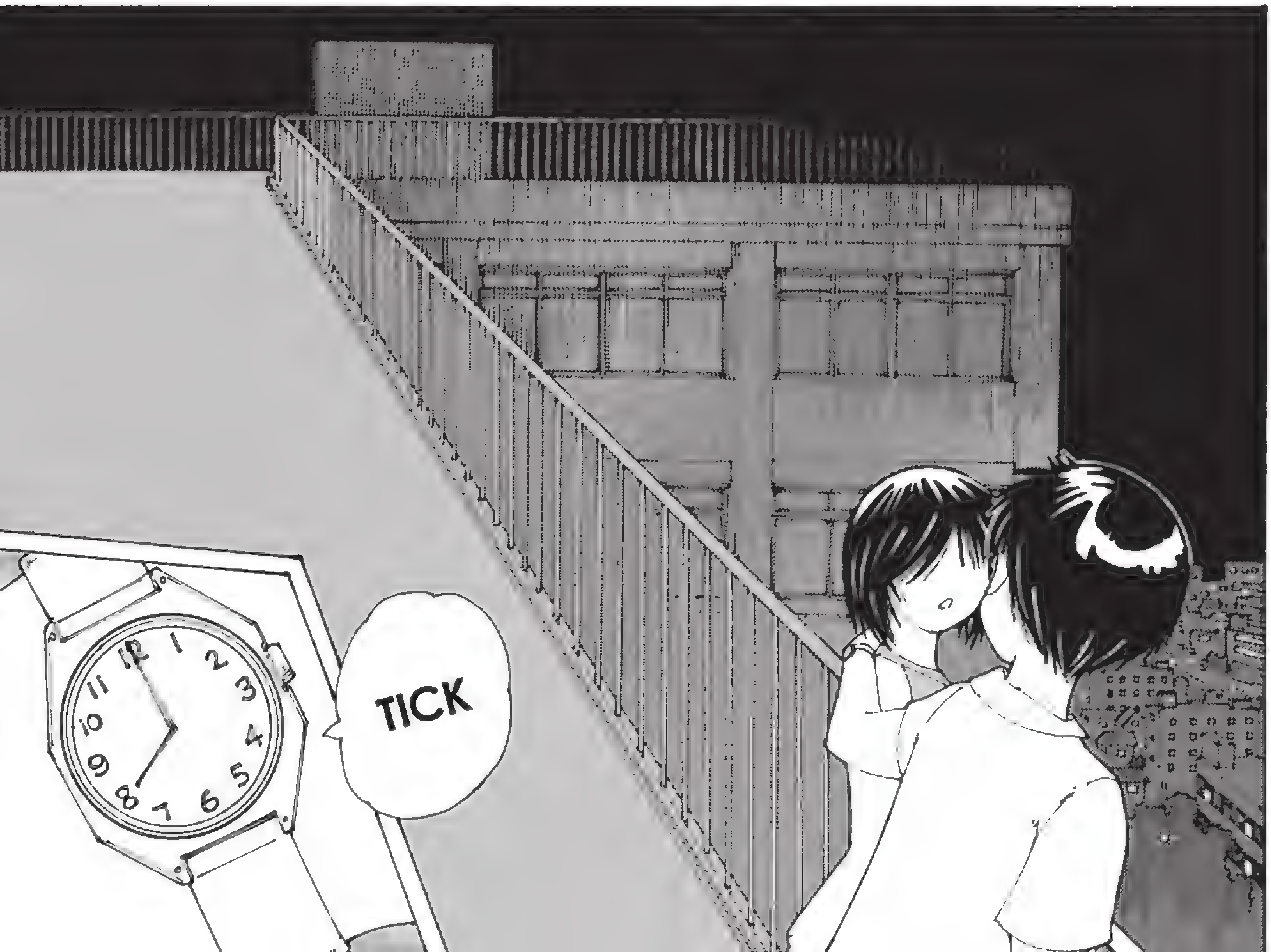
I'LL BE FIRST!
NO WAY! I WILL!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN GET ANY CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY LAST YEAR!
NEITHER DID YOU!
...THAT WAS WHAT
WE TALKED ABOUT...
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
UH...
YOU WANT TO KNOW...?
YES.
GULP

WE TALKED ABOUT
WHICH OF US
WOULD BE THE FIRST
TO KISS A GIRL
IN THE FUTURE.
1952
OF COURSE,
IT TURNED OUT
UENO WAS FIRST, AFTER ALL...

ギュ
GRIP
URABE!
1952

ギュ
GRAB
1952
R...
REALLY...?


IS THIS REALLY...
GOING TO HAPPEN...?


TICK

ドーンッ
BOOM
ドドーンッ
KABOOM
ドーン
BOOM

UENO...
AND OKA!
HUH?
WHIP
!!
I WONDER IF...
THEY SAW US...
I DON'T THINK SO.
THEY'RE PRETTY FAR AWAY...

BUT
YOU AND UENO
REALLY DO GET ALONG WELL, HUH?
HUH?
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
YOU BOTH HAD THE SAME IDEA TO BRING YOUR GIRLFRIENDS
TO A PLACE THAT HELD MEMORIES FOR YOU.
OH, YEAH...
COME TO THINK OF IT... I REMEMBER NOW.
A FEW DAYS BEFORE WE SAW THOSE FIREWORKS, UENO AND I HAD FOUGHT.
STING
WE WEREN'T TALKING TO EACH OTHER.
STING

THEN, THAT DAY, I BUMPED INTO HIM ON THE STREET.
WHEN I TRIED TO IGNORE HIM AND KEEP WALKING...
HE CALLED OUT TO ME.
HEY.
WANNA COME TO THE SCHOOL WITH ME TONIGHT?
HAMMER SHARK
TONIGHT?!
BUT...
ISN'T THE SCHOOL CLOSED AT NIGHT?
YOU'RE GONNA SNEAK INTO THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT?
YEAH!
YOU KNOW,
OUR SCHOOL
IS UP ON A HILL,
SO LOOKING FROM THE ROOF...
WE SHOULD HAVE
A GREAT VIEW OF THE FIREWORKS DOWNTOWN.
OOH!
THAT SOUNDS FUN!
WANNA COME?
YEAH!
OKAY, WE'LL MEET AT THE SCHOOL'S REAR ENTRANCE AT 7:30!
HAMMER SHARK

WHENEVER WE FOUGHT,
IT WAS USUALLY UENO
WHO MADE THE FIRST MOVE TO FIX THINGS.
ドーン
ドーン
KABOOM
I GUESS THAT MEANS HE WAS A LITTLE MORE MATURE...
BOOM
NO WONDER HE GOT HIS FIRST KISS BEFORE I DID...
CoCo Cola
120
BEEP
KA-KLUNK
I WAS SO CLOSE, THOUGH...
IT REALLY SEEMED LIKE I COULD'VE KISSED URABE BACK THERE...
DRINK UP!
BUT STILL...
チラッ GLANCE

URABE SEEMS PRETTY CALM.
EVEN AFTER WE ALMOST KISSED ON THE ROOF...
CoCoCoLa
PWAH
ぷはっ
TSUBAKI,
WANT A DRINK?
OH...
SURE.
952
GULP
ごくっ
GULP
ごくっ...
FZZ...
じゅ...

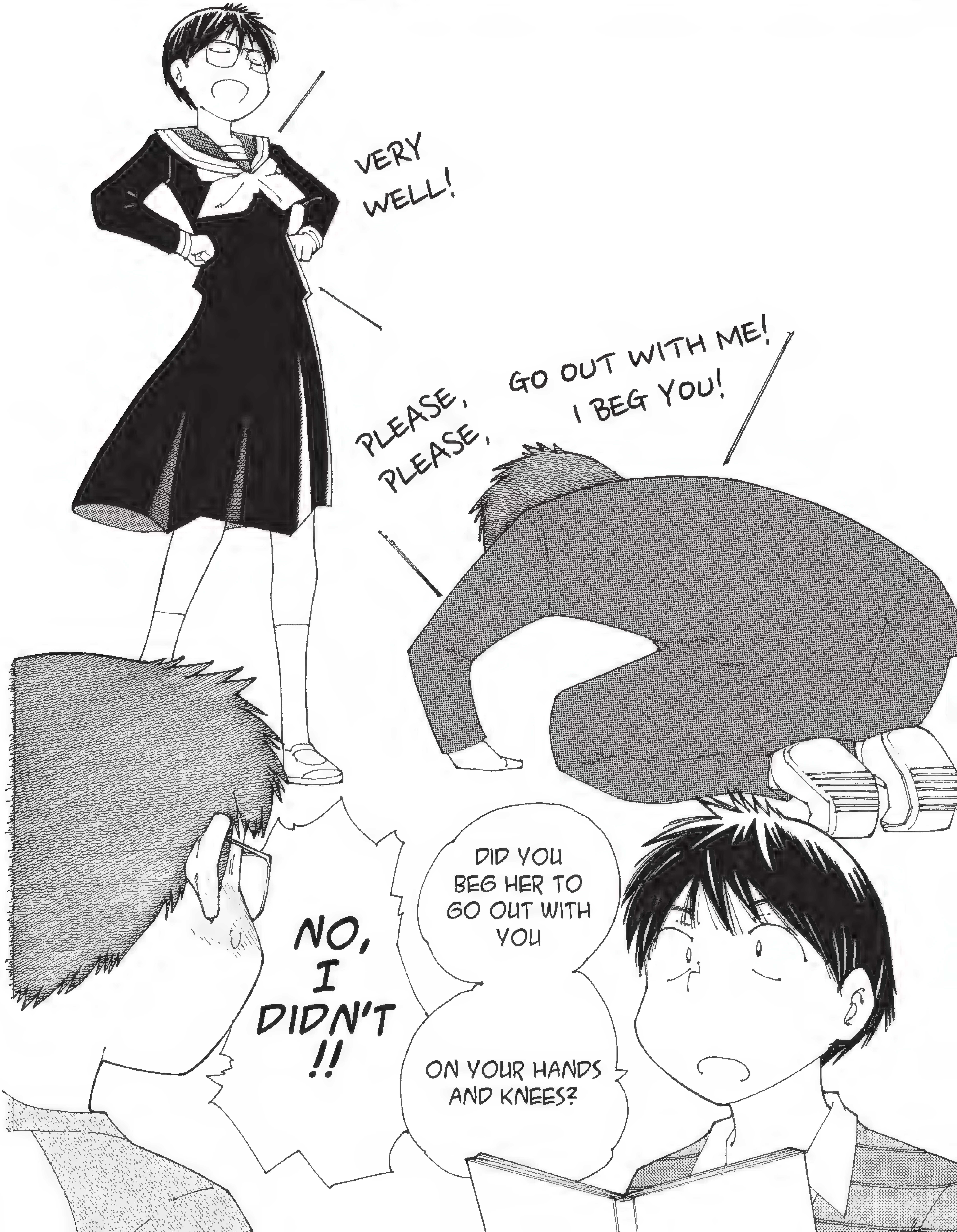
FIZZZ
しゅ
ZZZZZ
わあああ
TH...
THIS COLA...
SOME-HOW...
IS SUPER ENERGIZING...
IS IT BECAUSE
WE ALMOST...
SWIP
KI—
TAP
SHINK

THERE'S NO NEED
TO SAY ANY MORE THAN THAT.
IT'S TRUE THAT WE HAVEN'T KISSED YET,
BUT STILL,
WELL, SEE YA,
TSUBAKI!
I'M ENJOYING THE WAY URABE AND I ARE NOW,
UENO...!
MAN...
THIS IS SUPER ENERGIZING!
しゅわあああ
FIZZZZZZZ

END OF CHAPTER 80

STILL,
IT REALLY IS A MYSTERY...
HUH?
A MYSTERY?
WHAT IS?
YU KI
WELL,
I MEAN,
YOU KNOW...
THIS PICTURE IS FROM THE FIREWORKS SHOW LAST MONTH...
TWIN TAIL
HOW DID AN ORDINARY GUY LIKE YOU
END UP WITH
OKA AS A GIRLFRIEND?
OH...
WAS IT ONE OF
"THOSE" THINGS?

CHAPTER 81: MYSTERIOUS BACKSTORY


VERY WELL!
PLEASE, PLEASE, GO OUT WITH ME! I BEG YOU!
DID YOU BEG HER TO GO OUT WITH YOU
ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES?
NO, I DIDN'T !!

IF ONE OF US ASKED THE OTHER OUT,
I'D ACTUALLY SAY
IT WAS OKA.
WHAT?
REALLY?
REALLY!
TWIN
TAIL
YEAH, RIGHT!
YEAH, IT IS RIGHT!
TWIN
WAIT,
I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, DID I?
THE BACKSTORY OF HOW OKA AND I
STARTED DATING ...
TWIN
TAIL
TELL ME!
TELL ME NOW!
TELL ME THE BACK-STORY!
GRAB
OW! OWW ...
TWI
TAIL
ALL RIGHT!
I'LL TELL YOU!

URABE!
OVER HERE!
SEIYU
epsom
WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NOT AT ALL.
I JUST
GOT HERE MYSELF.
KAZAMIDAI
STAT
Hallucigenia
MOVA
WELL,
READY TO GO?
BUT,
ARE YOU SURE,
OKA?

OF COURSE!
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU, AFTER ALL.
I ALWAYS WANTED YOU TO COME TO MY HOUSE SOMETIME.
HERE WE ARE!
COME IN! COME IN!
OH,
HERE ARE YOUR SLIPPERS.
OH...
THANK YOU...
HM?

ARE YOU AYUKO'S FRIEND?
WELCOME.
THIS IS URABE, FROM MY CLASS.
N...
NICE TO MEET YOU...
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER AYUKO.
AH...
SURE!
MOM, CAN YOU BRING SOME TEA AND CAKE TO MY ROOM LATER?
YOUR MOM... LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, DOESN'T SHE?
THE FACE, THE HEIGHT...
YEAH,
I GET THAT A LOT.
WHEN I FIRST INTRODUCED HER TO UENO, HE SAID...
WOW! YOU LOOK LIKE SISTERS!
OH, GOODNESS! NOT AT ALL!
...
Halluci
...AND IT MADE HER SO HAPPY, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT WAS OBVIOUSLY JUST A PLOY TO GET HIS GIRLFRIEND'S MOM TO LIKE HIM!
HAHA...

THIS IS MY ROOM.
COME ON, HAVE A SEAT!
BANANA MOON GOLD
Boom Box is RAJIKASE
Adamski
GLANCE キョロ
キョロ GLANCE
YOUR SEAT
epoch TV square vol. 1
JUNK★

HEY,
OKA...
WHEN YOU STARTED DATING UENO...
WHICH ONE OF YOU ASKED THE OTHER OUT?
HUH...?
HE DID,
OF COURSE!
UENO
ASKED ME OUT!
AH,
COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER TOLD YOU THE BACKSTORY
OF HOW UENO AND I STARTED DATING, DID I?
WANT TO HEAR IT?
SHFF
I DO...
UH...
OKAY,
I'LL TELL YOU...

WHEN I WAS A SOPHOMORE,
I WAS ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL,
SO I WAS ALWAYS AT SCHOOL UNTIL LATE.
IT WAS ONE OF THOSE DAYS
WHEN UENO, WHO WAS ALSO
ON THE COUNCIL, TALKED TO ME.
HUH?
HUH?
OKA... YOU'RE STILL AT SCHOOL THIS LATE?
YEAH,
PREP FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
HAS KEPT ME BUSY.
I MEAN,
I AM AN OFFICER
ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL AFTER ALL.
SO WHY ARE YOU
STILL AT SCHOOL SO LATE, UENO?
I WAS CHATTING
WITH MY FRIEND,
IN THE CLASSROOM, AND REALIZED IT WAS LATE.
BY THE WAY...
OKA,
WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?
IN MIDORI-GAOKA.

MIDORI-GAOKA, HUH...
WELL, SEE YA, OKA.
SEE YA, UENO.
AND, FROM THAT DAY ON...
I STARTED TO FEEL LIKE
SOME-ONE
WAS FOLLOWING ME HOME FROM SCHOOL...
THEN, ONE DAY,
ジャキッ
SNICK
I MADE A DECISION...

THUP
THUP
SPIN
THUP
AND APPROACHED THE PERSON FOLLOWING ME...
THUP
WHO'S THERE?!
WHOOM
AND IT WAS UENO, RIGHT?
BINGO!
THE WAY THE STORY WAS GOING,
I COULD TELL.
UENO...?!

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
ARE YOU...
A STALKER?
NO! I'M NOT!
SINCE I FOUND OUT THAT YOU GO HOME LATE EVERY DAY,
I WAS WORRIED, SO I'VE BEEN WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.
I MEAN,
YOU'RE SMALL, LIKE A KID, YOU KNOW?
PLUS,
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES
ABOUT CREEPY PEOPLE WANDERING AROUND THIS AREA RECENTLY!
WHAT?
REALLY?
SO, WELL...
I LIVE PRETTY CLOSE BY, TOO,
SO I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU
TO MAKE SURE YOU GET HOME SAFE.
SKRITCH SKRITCH
IF THAT WAS ALL,
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO.

DIDN'T YOU THINK WALKING BEHIND ME WITH NO EXPLANATION
WOULD FREAK ME OUT?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME
WHAT YOU WERE DOING IN ADVANCE!
MY STUDENT COUNCIL WORK
USUALLY LASTS UNTIL ABOUT 7 O'CLOCK,
SO MEET ME BY THE SHOE LOCKERS THEN!
IF WE WALK HOME TOGETHER FROM THE START,
THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?
OH...
OKAY!
THEN FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THAT,
I WALKED HOME
WITH UENO AFTER SCHOOL.

BUT AFTER THE STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS,
ON THE LAST DAY THAT I HAD TO GO HOME SO LATE...
SO TODAY IS...
UENO.
THE LAST DAY...
UENO.
HEY, UENO!
HUH?
WHAT?!
GO OUT WITH ME...
WHA...?
DIZZY...

I SAID,
GO OUT TO THE GENERAL STORE WITH ME!
HUH?
THE GENERAL STORE?
YES.
IT'LL BE A LONGER WALK HOME.
IS THAT OKAY?
HMM...
WHICH ONE SHOULD I GET...
HEY,
UENO,
COULD YOU GRAB THAT FOR ME?
THIS ONE?
NO, NO! THE RED ONE, ON THE LEFT!
THIS ONE?
NOT THAT ONE!

GRAB
OH, FORGET IT!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE YOU MEAN, SO YOU GET IT!
JUST M
SPOL
DOLT
123
456
789

UH...
Bettan
JUST ME
かぁあああ
BLUUUUSH
S...
SORRY...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST PICKED YOU UP LIKE THAT...
...
JUST ME
UENO,
NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER...
I'M PLANNING TO QUIT THE STUDENT COUNCIL NEXT SEMESTER.

THIS IS THE LAST DAY
I'LL BE GOING HOME LATE.
I'LL BE LEAVING SCHOOL WHILE IT'S STILL LIGHT OUT STARTING TOMORROW.
THANKS FOR WALKING ME HOME UP TO NOW.
OH...
SURE...
H...
HEY,
OKA...
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU,
CAN WE CONTINUE
WALKING HOME TOGETHER?
YOU WANT TO KEEP
WALKING HOME TOGETHER?
YEAH!
I MEAN,
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...
WELL,
I DON'T MIND, BUT...

IS WALKING HOME TOGETHER
REALLY ALL YOU WANT?
IF YOU WOULD,
PLEASE
GO OUT WITH ME.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
THAT'S THE BACKSTORY OF HOW OKA AND I
STARTED GOING OUT.
TWIN
TAIL
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAID
IN THE BEGINNING...
HUH?
TWIN
YOU SAID OKA WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU OUT,
BUT IN THAT STORY,
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID
"PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME" TO HER!
THINK BACK TO THE REST OF MY STORY!
THE FIRST ONE TO SAY "GO OUT WITH ME" WAS OKA!
YEAH, BUT
SHE MEANT TO THE GENERAL STORE.
GO OUT WITH ME...
TWIN
TAIL

WELL, WHEN I TALKED TO OKA LATER ABOUT IT,
SHE SAID SHE WAS INTERESTED IN ME
FROM THE TIME WE FIRST
STARTED WALKING HOME TOGETHER.
THE WAY SHE WORDED "GO OUT TO THE GENERAL STORE WITH ME"
WAS THE VOICE OF HER INNER HEART SPEAKING TO ME!
TWIN TAI
51
SLURP...
THAT'S A PRETTY FORCED INTERPRETATION...
SO, WELL,
IT WAS UENO WHO ASKED ME OUT FIRST...
BUT LATER,
WHEN I SAID I KIND OF LIKED HIM
FROM THE TIME WE STARTED WALKING HOME TOGETHER,
HE LOOKED REALLY HAPPY.
BUT,
THAT DAY AT THE GENERAL STORE...

WHEN UENO WHISKED ME UP...
IT FELT SO NATURAL SOMEHOW.
I'M PRETTY SURE
I WAS ALREADY IN LOVE WITH UENO BY THEN.
SO,
HE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME OUT,
BUT TO BE PRECISE ...
IF I HAD TO SAY WHO WAS FIRST...
TMP
TMP
URABE.
Boom Box is RAJIKASE
OLD

I'M GOING TO START GETTING DINNER READY NOW.
IF YOU LIKE,
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND EAT WITH US?
WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, YOU SHOULD!
STAY FOR DINNER,
URABE!
Hallucigen
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
NO TROUBLE AT ALL,
REALLY.
UHH...
WHAT WAS I SAYING?
Hallucigen
YOU WERE SAYING
WHETHER YOU OR UENO ASKED THE OTHER OUT FIRST.
OH, YEAH!
Hallucige

...WELL,
I LOVE UENO,
AND UENO LOVES ME, SO...
AT THIS POINT,
WHO SAID IT FIRST
DOESN'T EVEN MATTER.
ISN'T IT THE SAME WITH YOU AND TSUBAKI?
I FEEL LIKE...
I'M ALREADY FULL
BEFORE WE EVEN EAT DINNER...

END OF CHAPTER 81

FIGHT—!!
YEAH!
THE SPORTS CLUBS
SURE ARE PRACTICING A LOT.
WELL, THE WEATHER'S A LOT COOLER NOW.
ポコ BONK
OW!
TSUBAKI,
COULD YOU GET US THE BALL?
HUH?

HEY! ♪
KAZE
SUWANO!!

CHAPTER 82: MYSTERIOUS TENNIS COURT

SUWANO, YOU'RE IN THE TENNIS CLUB?
HUH?
...!
OFFICIALLY,
YES.
I'M A REGISTERED MEMBER,
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN COMING TO PRACTICE MUCH...
WELL,
THE REASON I JOINED WAS...
HERE,
YOUR BALL.
THANKS!
CATCH
ッ
I'M NOT REALLY A SERIOUS MEMBER.
BECAUSE THE UNIFORMS
ARE REALLY CUTE.
YEAH, THEY ARE CUTE...

OH,
I'M ABOUT TO START
THUP
A PRACTICE MATCH.
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND WATCH?
HUH?
SURE!
WE'RE IN!
WE'RE IN!
GRAB
POONG
SWA
KAK
PONG
PONG

SWAK
THWAK
WOW,
SUWANO...
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT A SERIOUS MEMBER,
SHE'S PRETTY GOOD!
WELL, SHE WAS PRETTY ATHLETIC TO BEGIN WITH.
NOT TO MENTION,
THAT TENNIS OUTFIT...
LOOKS PRETTY GREAT WITH
SUWANO'S PONYTAIL, HUH?

Y...
YOU THINK SO...?
HEY, TSUBAKI.
YOU REALLY DO LIKE SUWANO, DON'T YOU?
N—
NO!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
AND I DON'T HAVE A PONYTAIL FETISH!
PONYTAIL FETISHES ASIDE...
ALL THIS TIME...
キュッ
SQUEAK
SWAK
IT'S SUWANO'S LEGS
THAT MY EYES KEEP GOING TO...
MAYBE I HAVE
A SLIGHT FETISH FOR GIRLS' LEGS...
OH...

IS THAT GIRL PLAYING TENNIS OVER THERE
SUWANO ...?
HUH?
THERE,
ON THE TENNIS COURT!
HM?
THE GUYS WATCHING FROM THE SIDE
ARE UENO AND TSUBAKI!
URABE!
LET'S GO WATCH, TOO!
HUH...?
SUWANO!
OKA!

SUWANO,
YOU'RE IN THE TENNIS CLUB?
I'M BASICALLY
A GHOST MEMBER, BUT YEAH.
GLANCE
チラッ
KONG
PA

パコーン
PAKONG
パコーン
PAKONG
パコーンッ
PAKONG
パコーン
PAKONG

WHAPP
GAME, SET...
AND...
MATCH WON BY SUWANO!
WHOOSH
AH...
ALL RIGHT!
SCORE IS 6-4!
SUWANO!
YOU'RE SO GOOD!
AAH...
THAT ACTUALLY WENT WELL!
OOOOOH!!

URABE.
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO TRY PLAYING, TOO?
JUST ONE SET.
WHAT?
I MEAN,
YOU'RE REALLY ATHLETIC,
SO I BET YOU'LL BE PRETTY GOOD.
WAIT...
YOU MEAN...
A MATCH BETWEEN YOU AND URABE?
YUP!

WH... WHAT DO YOU THINK, URABE?
WANT TO TRY IT?
OOH!
ワク
OOH!
I KIND OF WANT TO SEE IT MYSELF...
SURE, I'LL PLAY.
YAAY♪
URABE,
DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?
I'VE SEEN IT ON TV,
GOOD LUCK!
SO, I HAVE AN IDEA.
CAN YOU LEND HER YOUR RACKET?
UHMM...
YOU'RE IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM...
YOU DON'T WANT TO CHANGE?
I'M FINE.

OKAY,
WE'LL TAKE IT NICE AND EASY, THEN.
PLAY!
PAKO
NG
SWA
KAK

PANG
PANG
PANG
WOW...
QUITE A VOLLEY THEY'VE GOT GOING...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MATCH BETWEEN A GHOST MEMBER AND A BEGINNER...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GAINED AN AUDIENCE ...
WHAT'S UP? WHAT'S GOING ON?
PANG
PANG
PANG
PANG
SMASH
TSK
AH...!

15-LOVE!
ドタ
WHUMP
!!
URABE !!
I GUESS SUWANO DOES HAVE THE EDGE SINCE SHE'S IN THE CLUB...
URABE...
ポイ
KICK

ギュ
ッ
SQK
トーン
HOP
トーン
HOP

ZHFF
BAREFOOT ...?
KOONG
PA
キュッ
SQUEAK

SMASH
MAN, URABE, YOU WERE AMAZING!
SUWANO HAD YOU ON THE RUN AT FIRST,
BUT AFTER YOU TOOK YOUR SHOES OFF,
YOU QUICKLY TURNED THE TABLES!
WAS THAT REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME PLAYING TENNIS?

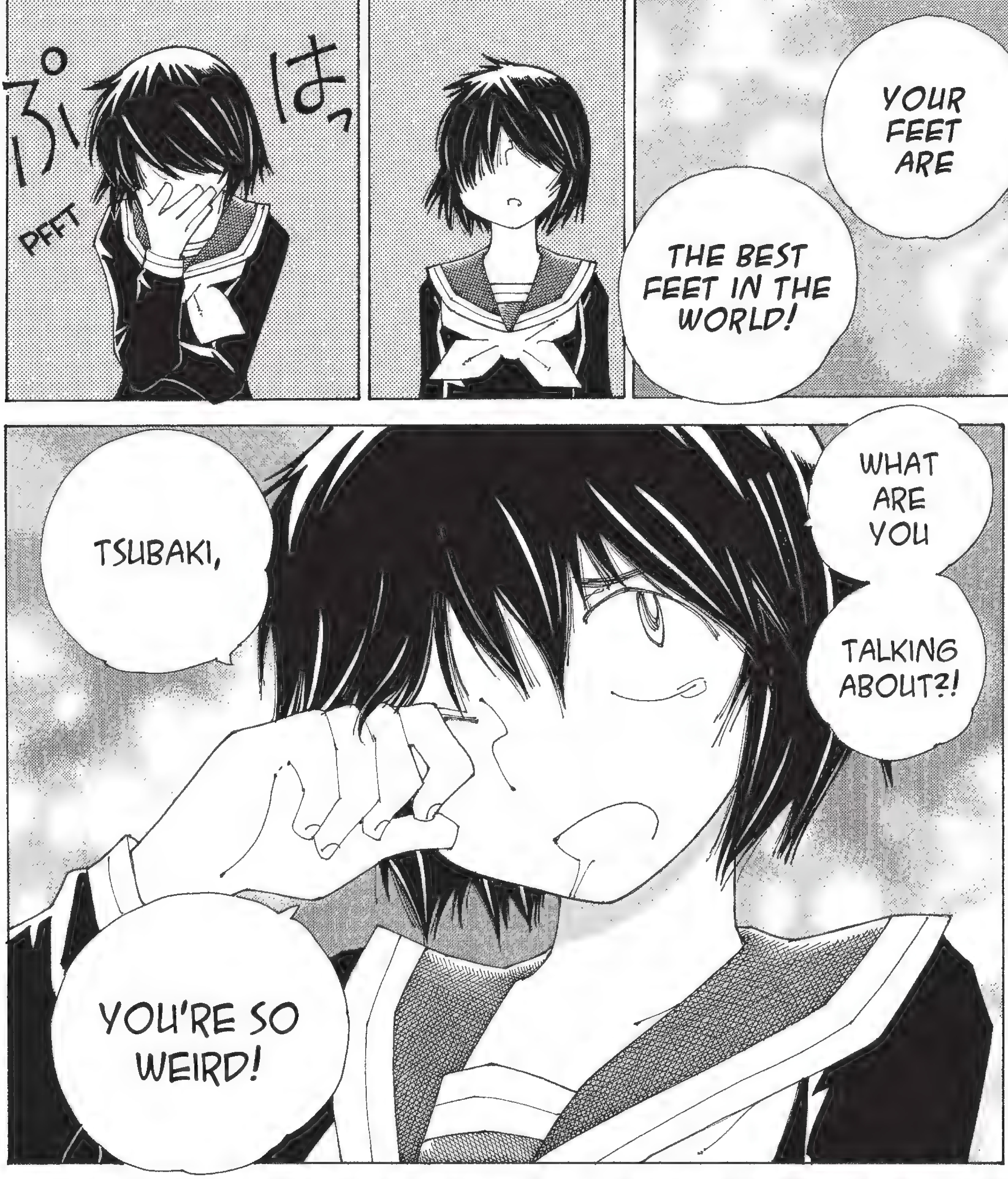
TSUBAKI...
MIND
IF WE STOP BY THE PARK?
I PUT MY SHOES BACK ON
AS SOON AS THE GAME ENDED,
SO I WANT TO RINSE OFF MY FEET.
TSUBAKI...
SHAAAAAA
I DIDN'T REALLY GO
INTO THAT TENNIS MATCH WITH SUCH INTENTIONS...
BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT IT...
HUH?

BECAUSE...
YOU KEPT
STARING AT SUWANO'S LEGS...
AH...
N...
NO,
THAT WAS...
SUWANO JUST LOOKED NICE IN HER TENNIS OUTFIT...
SO I JUST HAPPENED TO LOOK AT HER FOR ONCE...
BUT
IT'S A FACT THAT YOU WERE LOOKING.
S...
SORRY,
URABE.
SHAAAAAAA

RIP
URABE!
WH...
WHAT?
HERE!

THIS MUDDY SPOT HERE.
WOULD YOU STEP IN IT WITH YOUR WET FOOT?
WHY...?
JUST DO IT!
GLOOP
NOW,
STEP ON THIS PAPER
WITH THAT FOOT!
HUH...?

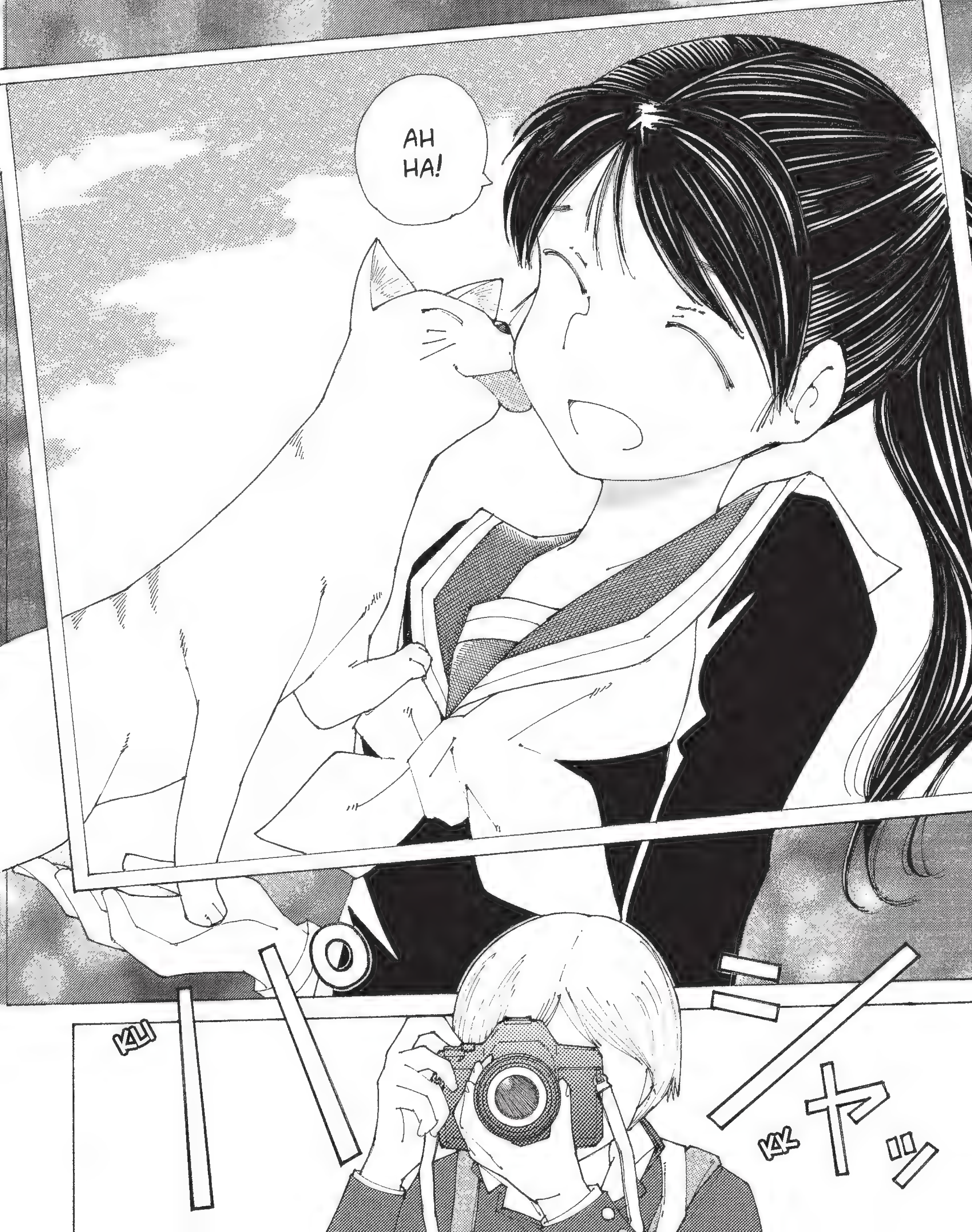
STEP
URABE!
I'LL HANG THIS FOOTPRINT IN MY ROOM TODAY AND THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE!
BECAUSE,
TO ME...


YOUR FEET ARE
THE BEST FEET IN THE WORLD!
ぷはっ
PFFT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
TSUBAKI,
YOU'RE SO WEIRD!
SHE THOUGHT ... IT WAS FUNNY...
SO I GUESS SHE'S NOT MAD ANYMORE?
あははははは
AH HA HA HA HA...

END OF CHAPTER 82

OH...
MEOW!
C'MON,
SHAKE!
トッ
STEP
ペロッ
LICK

CHAPTER 83: MYSTERIOUS PHOTO OP


AH HA!
KLI
KAK
ヤッ

SUWANO!
YES?
ENGLISH JAPANESE DICTIONARY
GOT A MINUTE?
NAKA-JIMA...
THE THING IS,
A KID IN MY PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
HAS SOMETHING TO...
OH...
C'MON!
INTRODUCE YOURSELF FIRST!
UH...
OKAY ...

H...
HI.
MY NAME'S HASEGAWA.
HELLO.
HASEGAWA HERE
ENTERED A MAGAZINE PHOTO CONTEST,
AND HE WON A PRIZE.
PHOTO AGE
ONTHLY
HOTOAGE
1
AND THE WINNING PICTURE WAS...
FLIP
THIS.
HONORABLE MENTION:
TSUKASA HASEGAWA (16), TOKYO
COMMENTS
IT'S ME!
WHEN DID YOU TAKE THIS?
WELL?
WHEN DID YOU TAKE IT?

AT RANDOM, ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL,
TWO MONTHS AGO.
I, WELL...
HAPPENED TO SEE YOU
GETTING LICKED ON THE FACE BY A CAT.
SO I RUSHED
TO TAKE OUT MY CAMERA AND
SNAPPED
A PIC.
WELL,
HE TOOK YOUR PICTURE
AND ENTERED IT IN THAT CONTEST
WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION,
SO I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY FOR NOT
ASKING YOU FIRST!
...BUT
IT IS A NICE PICTURE...
MONTHLY PHOTO AGE
PHOTO AGE
masxell
BLUE-RAY DISC

SO...
SO,
UHM!
BAM
I WAS THINKING OF ENTERING THE NEXT CONTEST, TOO...
S...
SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND...
SUWANO...
I'D LIKE YOU TO M-MODEL FOR MY PHOTOS...
WILL YOU?!
SEE?
SEE?
AREN'T THEY CUTE?

HASEGAWA FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB TOOK THEM.
I KNOW IT'S WEIRD TO CALL MY OWN PICTURES "CUTE,"
BUT HE MAKES ME LOOK WAY BETTER IN HIS PHOTOS THAN I DO IN REAL LIFE.
STILL,
IT KINDA MAKES ME WONDER...
HUH?
ABOUT WHAT?
THIS HASEGAWA GUY...
EVEN THOUGH HE SAW YOU AS A MODEL FOR HIS PHOTOS AT FIRST,
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE'LL FALL IN LOVE
AND START ACTING LIKE A STALKER.
WHAT?
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.
I DUNNO...
MOST GUYS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB ARE REAL GEEKS.
I THINK
THAT'S JUST PREJUDICE.

HEY!
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
SUWANO!
SORRY!
I RAN REALLY LATE.
ARE YOU MAD?
NO, NO, NO!
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU,
SO I'M JUST THANKFUL THAT YOU CAME!
SO, UH,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OH,
YOU CAN JUST
ACT LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO.

RIGHT.
SO...
I CAN JUST
DO WHATEVER I WANT?
I'D LIKE TO CAPTURE YOUR NATURAL CUTENESS.
H...
HEY...
WAIT UP!
DASH
KLIK
AH!

WOW!
AMAZING!
YOU TOOK ALL THESE IN JUST ONE HOUR!
AND THEY'RE ALL GREAT!
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD WITH A CAMERA,
HASEGAWA.
NAH...
I JUST HAVE A GOOD MODEL.
SEEING MYSELF PHOTOGRAPHED SO WELL
MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY,
AS A GIRL AND ALL...
OH...
I'LL GO BUY SOME DRINKS!
OKAY, THANKS.

HUH?
CHFF
IS THAT YOU, SUWANO?
HUH?
YOSHIMURA...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

SHE'S REALLY AWFUL!
ONE DAY,
SHE JUST STOPPED CONTACTING ME,
AND SHE WOULDN'T ANSWER MY CALLS...
WOW...
UHM...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
HASEGAWA...
WHO'RE YOU,
KID?
SUWANO'S NEW BOYFRIEND?
WHAT?

SUWANO'S NICE ON THE OUTSIDE,
BUT SHE'S A PRETTY COLD CHICK.
WATCH YOURSELF.
ガッ
GRAB
DON'T THINK WHAT YOU SEE IS ALL THERE IS TO HER!
THERE ARE TONS OF GREAT THINGS ABOUT MY GIRLFRIEND
THAT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW!
WHAT ?!!
LET'S GO,
SUWANO!

OH,
HERE.
YOUR DRINK.
THANKS.
SORRY...
FOR BLURTING OUT THAT YOU WERE MY GIRLFRIEND...
IT'S OKAY,
REALLY.
UHM...
WAS THAT GUY...
YOUR...
EX-BOYFRIEND?
YES.
HAAH...
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SOMEONE AS PRETTY AS YOU
WOULD HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT...
I'VE NEVER
GONE OUT WITH A GIRL BEFORE.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS...

I STARTED TAKING PICTURES BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO CAPTURE
THE BEAUTY AND CUTENESS OF GIRLS.
BUT IF I COULD DATE A GIRL AND LEARN ABOUT LOVE,
I WONDER IF MY PICTURES WOULD LOOK ANY DIFFERENT...
WOULD YOU LIKE
ME TO TEACH YOU?

AH,
THAT WOULD BE
A BAD IDEA!
HUH?
IN MY MIND, THE GIRL I SEE THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER IS MY IDOL!
THE VERY FACT THAT SHE'S OUT OF MY REACH STRENGTHENS MY ADMIRATION!
IF I WERE TO GET A GIRLFRIEND,
I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER MAKE HER A SUBJECT OF MY PHOTOS!
AND TO ME,
YOU'RE AN AMAZING SUBJECT!

THAT'S WHY...
I...
I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE
I WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU!
BECAUSE,
SUWANO,
I IDOLIZE YOU!
OH...
REALLY?
YOU IDOL-IZE ME,
HUH?
OH... I SEE...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
UH...
SUWANO!!
GRIP
DON'T OPEN THAT!
PSSHH
IT'S...

ACK!
AAAH...!
PSHAAAAA
CARBON-ATED...
KLIK
S...
SORRY...
I JUST
TOOK A PICTURE...
IT WAS WARM, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS COFFEE...
IT'S ONE OF THOSE NEW WARM CARBONATED DRINKS...

WINNER:
TSUKASA HASEGAWA (16), TOKYO
COMMENTS
I'D HEARD SUWANO'S PICTURE WAS IN THIS MAGAZINE AGAIN...
PHOTOGRAPHY REALLY IS
PRETTY COOL...
AFTERNOON HARVEST FESTIVAL 2013
FOR FASHION
LATEST ISSUE
GOR GO
SO THIS IS IT...
TV
WEEKLY BUNSHUU
DRAMA
FRI DAY
NEW READING WEEKLY
STUDIO Q
POLITICS AND MASS MEDIA
IDOL LISTINGS
DIGITAL CAMERA
NEW
MONTHLY PHOTO AGE
PHOTOAGE
RAINBOW BIRD
URABE!
URABE!

DO YOU
REMEMBER THIS?
THE POLAROID CAMERA
THAT YOU BROUGHT OVER BEFORE.
YEP!
I STILL THINK,
SINCE I'M GOING OUT WITH YOU,
THAT I'D LIKE TO HAVE A CUTE PICTURE OF YOU TO KEEP!
CAN I?
ALL RIGHT.
REALLY?!!
THANKS,
URABE!

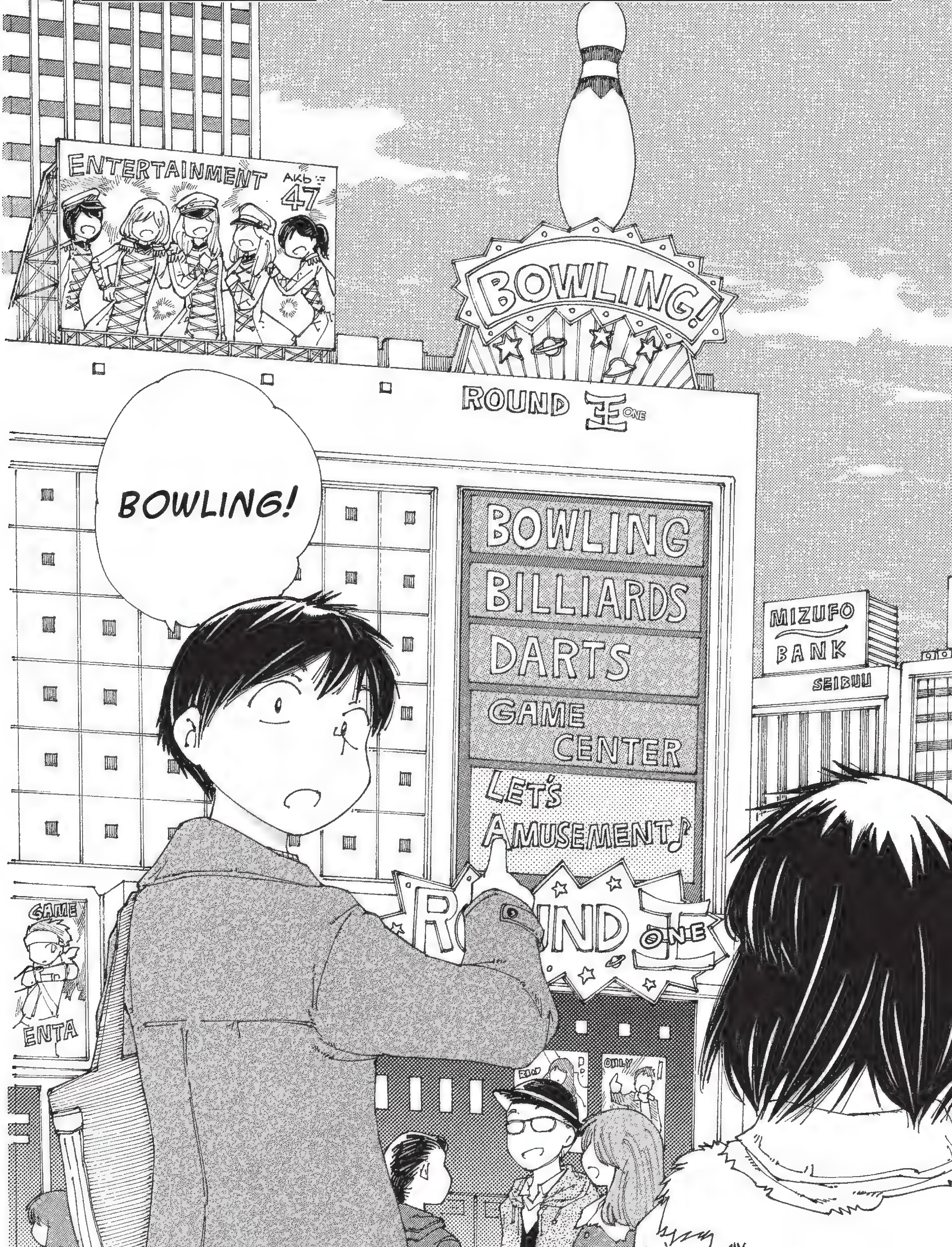
OKAY,
WHEN I SAY "CHEESE,"
I'LL TAKE IT!
CHEESE!
KLI
KK
WHI
RRR

ジャキジャキ
SNIP SNIP
ジャキジャキ
SNIP SNIP
SHINK
IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR GIRLFRIEND LOOKING CUTE,
DON'T DEPEND ON MACHINES.
BURN THE IMAGE ON THE BACK OF YOUR EYELIDS.
SHE STILL
WON'T LET ME...
FLUTTER...
STEP STEP STEP
スタスタスタ...

END OF CHAPTER 83

THEATER
ゼロ・グラフィティ
ZERO GRAFFITI
NOW SHOWING!!
THEATRICAL MOVIE MAGICAL GIRL MADOKA MAGIKA
THE KIYOZU CONFERENCE
LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER
VAIO NEW! SUPER TAB
YANADA DENKI
THEATER SUNSHINE
MAN, NOW WHAT?
HEATER SUN
THEY SAID THEY'RE TOTALLY SOLD OUT.
OH...
I GUESS WE SHOULD'VE BOUGHT TICKETS BEFORE...
SO WHERE SHOULD WE KILL TWO HOURS?
AH!
WANNA TRY
THAT?
"THAT"?

CHAPTER 84: MYSTERIOUS "TSUBAKI VS. URABE"


ENTERTAINMENT
AKb
47
BOWLING!
ROUND ONE
BOWLING!
BOWLING
BILLIARDS
DARTS
GAME CENTER
LET'S AMUSEMENT♪
ROUND ONE
MIZUFO BANK
SEIBUU
GAME
ENTA
ONLY

WHAT?
URABE,
YOU'VE NEVER BOWLED BEFORE?
NO.
ROUND
KLATTER
IT'S EASY.
YOU THROW THE BALL TWICE PER FRAME,
AND TRY TO KNOCK DOWN THOSE PINS.
IF YOU KNOCK DOWN ALL TEN AT ONCE, IT'S A STRIKE.
THE ONE WHO KNOCKS DOWN THE MOST PINS IN TEN FRAMES WINS!
OKAY,
WATCH.
I'LL GO FIRST!
GOOD LUCK.

THPP
SWING
8
9
10
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
PA
KLAAKK

ALL RIGHT!!
HUH?
HUH?
THAT WAS A STRIKE?
YEP!
CULE
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS, TSUBAKI.
ACTUALLY, BOWLING IS
THE ONE THING
I CAN DO PRETTY WELL.
MY WHOLE FAMILY
IS INTO BOWLING,
SO WE'VE BOWLED TOGETHER EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
MY SISTER EVEN
HAS HER OWN BOWLING GLOVE.
BOWLING
STRIKE
OKAY,
YOU'RE UP, URABE!
GOOD LUCK!
I'LL TRY...

TOSS
ゴロゴロゴロ
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
GA
ガコン
KLUNK
AH,
TOO BAD.
A GUTTER BALL.
THIS IS PRETTY HARD...
YOU GET TO THROW ONE MORE TIME,
URABE.
KICK

THERE IT IS...!
URABE'S SERIOUS MODE...
BAREFOOT!
キュ
SWIP
キュ
SWIP
ダッ
SWING
ブンッ
WHOOM
9
ゴロゴロ
ROLL
ROLL

GA
KLATTER
SO CLOSE!
NINE PINS!
YOU'RE REALLY ATHLETIC, URABE,
SO YOU'LL GET BETTER FAST!
YEAH ...
BOWLING IS
KINDA FUN...
HEY, I KNOW!
SINCE WE'RE PLAYING TOGETHER,
WHY DON'T WE MAKE A BET?
THE LOSER BUYS
LUNCH FOR THE WINNER,
MAYBE?
TSUBAKI.
I THINK...
THAT IS A VERY
GOOD IDEA...

I THINK I JUST IGNITED URABE'S FIGHTING SPIRIT...
ROOOOOAAR
ゴゴゴゴ…
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT,
SHE DOES ENJOY COMPETITION...
AW, MAAN...
I JUST WASN'T ON MY GAME TODAY...
AND AS PROMISED,
SINCE YOU CAME IN LAST,
YOU'RE BUYING OUR LUNCH!
FREE FOOD! FREE FOOD!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG,
YOSHI-KAWA?
DASH

NEW BEER MALTY
100%
VILA
HEY, YOU GUYS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU GUYS ARE FROM CLASS 2-A, RIGHT?
LONG TIME NO SEE!!
AH...
FROM THE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT...
CLASS 2-C...
YOSHIKAWA...
THAT'S RIGHT!
BROKEN
WHAT'S THIS?
ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?
DOES THE REST OF CLASS 2-A KNOW?
UH...
WELL...

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING THE FACT
THAT WE'RE GOING OUT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE.
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULDN'T TELL...
HUH?
REALLY?
WELL,
OKAY, BUT...
IN RETURN,
LET ME WATCH YOU FOR A WHILE.
ドサ
FWUMP
HEY, GUYS!
COME ON OVER, TOO!
HEY, HEY, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DATING?
BOWLING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, HUH?
I'M JEALOUS...
BANANA TV IS SO FUNNY! ♥
I WISH I HAD A BOYFRIEND ...
LEND MY YOUR "AMA-CHAN" DVD NEXT TIME!
ワイワイ
YAY
YAY
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER
CHATTER
THIS WHOLE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN PRETTY WEIRD...

LET'S SEE...
THE SCORES...
OH!
THE BOY-FRIEND'S PRETTY GOOD.
BUT SO IS THE GIRLFRIEND...
SHE'S SLOWLY CATCHING UP...
TSUBAKI
URABE
1
2
3
27
47
67
G9
8
9
9
28
48
HEY, HEY!
ARE YOU GUYS BETTING ANYTHING?
YEAH, TODAY'S LUNCH...
AAWW!
THAT'S NO FUN!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE WERE JUST GAMBLING ON, THOUGH...
SINCE YOU'RE PLAYING AS A COUPLE,
LET'S SAY THAT IF THE BOYFRIEND WINS,
THE GIRLFRIEND HAS TO KISS HIM
IN FRONT OF US!
OKAY?
AH!
I AGREE!
I WANNA SEE THAT!
SQUEE!
90 BUBBLES BURSTS
TH—
THAT'S STUPID!

WE...
WE CAN'T BET SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
THIS IS URABE'S FIRST TIME BOWLING,
SO SHE HAS A HUGE HANDICAP!
SNAP
OH...
THEN...
I GUESS THE GIRLFRIEND WINNING
WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE...
SNAP
TSUBAKI...
HUH?
I
WOULDN'T MIND
TAKING THAT BET...
F...
FOR REAL?!
ALL RIGHT!
IF YOU LOSE, YOU HAVE TO KISS HIM!
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

SMAASH
KA
WHOOOOAAA!
A STRIKE!
ALL RIGHT!
THE GIRLFRIEND'S CATCHING UP FAST NOW!
115
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME?
OKAY! A KISS IS RIDING ON THIS, YOU KNOW!
GO FOR IT!
BOYFRIEND!
SMACK
SH...
SHUT UP...
BUT IS SHE REALLY SERIOUS...?
IF I WIN, IS URABE REALLY GOING TO KISS ME...?

IF SO,
THEN I'D BETTER
キュッ
SQUEAK
SWING
TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, TOO!!
GAKUNK
ROLL
ゴロゴロ
ROLL
AUGH!
A GUTTER BALL!
I THREW TOO HARD!
OH, NO...!
IT'S OKAY!
IT'S OKAY!
BOY-FRIEND!

YEAH ...
SURE ...
SLAP
KLAAAK
UH-OH.
THE GIRLFRIEND HAD A BAD ROLL, TOO.
ONLY TWO PINS.
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
YOU CAN DO IT!
...
EH HEH...

ガゴ
KLAAAKK
GA
ALL RIGHT!
I GAVE IT MY BEST...
STRIKE!
BOY-FRIEND'S FINAL SCORE IS 185!
6 7 8 9 10
7 G ⋈ — 7 1 8 ◿ ⋈
32 139 157 165 185
— 2 ◿ ⋈ — 6 2
20 140 166
AAH...
IF THE GIRLFRIEND GETS A STRIKE ON HER FIRST THROW
AND AT LEAST PICKS UP A SPARE IN THE NEXT TWO,
THE BOYFRIEND WILL LOSE...
DOUBLE PAY BACK

SWIING
ガゴ
GA
SMAASH
SHE DID IT!
A STRIKE!
SHE'S AT HER PEAK!
HEY, COME HERE A SEC.
HUH? WHAT?
DOUBLE PAY BACK
WHISPER WHISPER...
DOUBLE PAY BACK
WHOOM

KLAAAK
KA
EIGHT PINS...
TWO LEFT...
IF ANYONE CAN PICK UP THE SPARE, IT'S URABE...
LOOKS LIKE THAT KISS ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN...
WELL,
I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT GOES...
HEY,
BOYFRIEND!
IF YOU LOSE,
HOW ABOUT WE SAY
YOU HAVE TO BUY LUNCH NOT JUST FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND,
BUT FOR ALL OF US, TOO?
FINE,
FINE.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

WHEE!
SQUEEZE
I'M SO HAPPY!
POKE
ROUND

ザッ
ZHFF
ブーン
SWING
ゴロゴロゴロ
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
SLIP
SHE MISSED!!
ガコン
KLUNK
SHE MISSED THE SPARE!
THE BOY-FRIEND WINS!
SEEING OTHER GIRLS GETTING COZY WITH HER BOYFRIEND THREW OFF HER CONCENTRATION...
JUST LIKE I PREDICTED.
HUH?
HUH?

OKAY,
AS PROMISED,
YAY♥
YAY♥
SINCE THE GIRLFRIEND LOST,
SHE HAS TO KISS HER BOYFRIEND!
RIGHT?
IF NOT NOW, WHEN?!
2013 TRENDY PHRASES
ARE...
ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO DO THIS,
URABE...?
WE MADE A BET,
AND THAT WAS THE DEAL,
SO I HAVE TO...
KISS!
KISS!
KISS!
BROKEN

KISS!
KISS!
KISS!
!
GRAB
グイッ
I'M CALLING OFF THE BET, AFTER ALL.
WHAT?!
WHY NOT?!
WE WON'T STAND FOR THAT!
BECAUSE ...
I CAN'T KISS HER.

URABE
IS CRYING...
S-STILL...
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE!
THE GIRLFRIEND LOST,
SO SHE HAS TO HOLD UP HER END...
J J
90
NO.
I'M THE ONE WHO LOST.
HUH?
I DID WIN THE BOWLING MATCH,
BUT...

THERE'S NO BOYFRIEND IN THIS WORLD WHO WINS
IN THE FACE OF HIS GIRLFRIEND'S TEARS!
THAT MEANS
I'VE LOST THIS MATCH!
J
パチパチ
パチパチ
パチパチ
パチパチ
パチパチ
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
OOOOOH!!
お
DY-NAMIC!!
FINE...
I CAN ACCEPT THAT.
BUT ON ONE CONDITION.
BUBBLES BURSTS
50 MILLION YEN

STARTING NOW, ALL SIX OF US
WILL BOWL A MATCH TOGETHER!
AND THE ONE WHO PLACES LAST HAS TO BUY DINNER FOR EVERYONE!
YAY!!
パチ KLAP パチ KLAP
SLAP
WE GET A FREE MEAL!
WHAT'S WITH THESE GIRLS...?
ガー ROOOOLLLL
GO, YOSHIKAWA!
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
A DATE FOR THE TWO OF US,
BUT IT SURE TURNED OUT WEIRD...
TSUBAKI...
LET'S HAVE THAT KISS
SOME OTHER TIME.
WHISPER
I JUST CAN'T WIN
AGAINST URABE.
MELT どろ〜ん
HEY!
BOY-FRIEND, YOU'RE UP!

END OF CHAPTER 84

DON'T YOU THINK A GIRL WHO DROOLS WHEN SHE FALLS ASLEEP IS CUTE?
WELL, THIS IS A COMIC ABOUT THAT SORT OF GIRL.
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

MYSTERIOUS
GIRLFRIEND X

VERTICAL COMICS

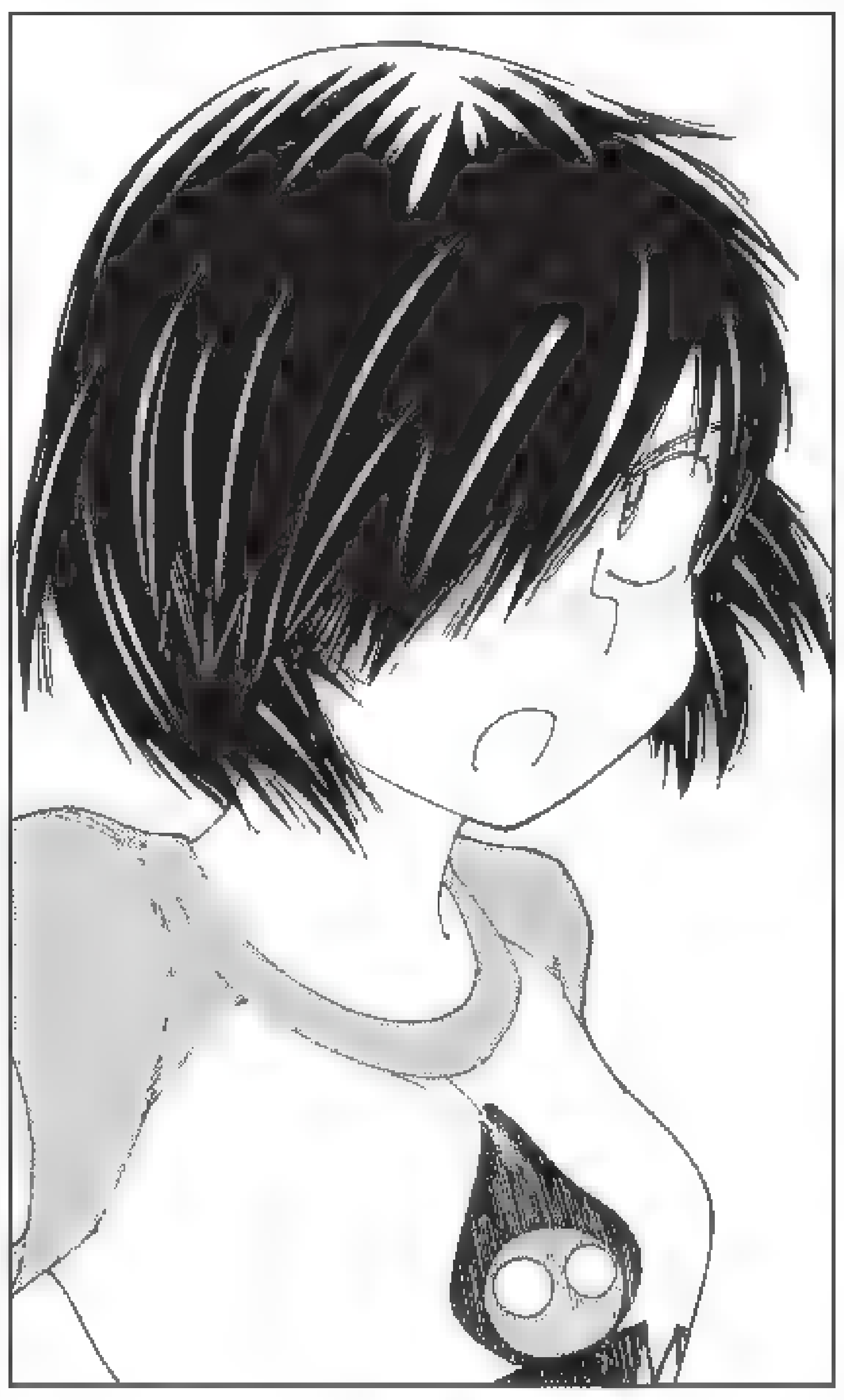
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

RIICHI UESHIBA

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

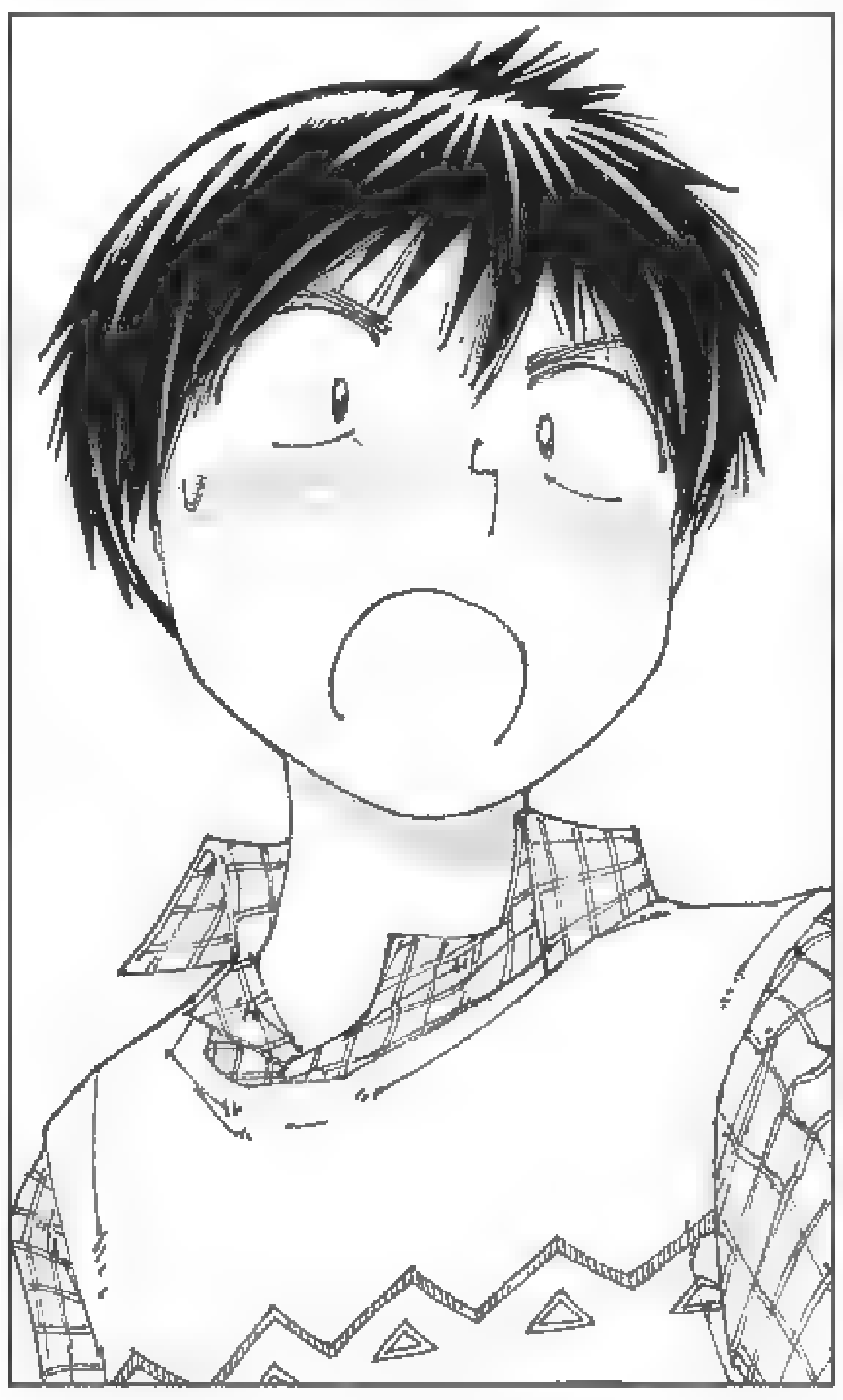
Characters

Mikoto Urabe (17)



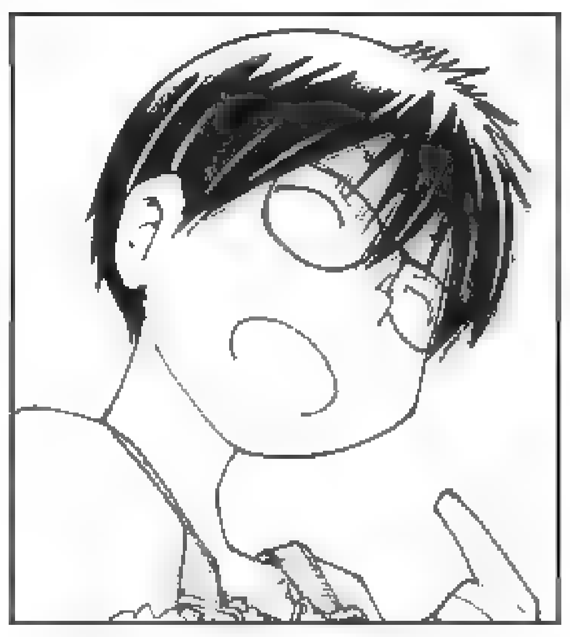
A transfer student who joined Tsubaki's class. She can convey her own feelings through her drool, as well as pick up on Tsubaki's feelings through his. She's antisocial and everything she says and does is mysterious, but her ideas about love are very pure. Her hobby is using scissors, which she can use to cut up anything.

Akira Tsubaki (17)



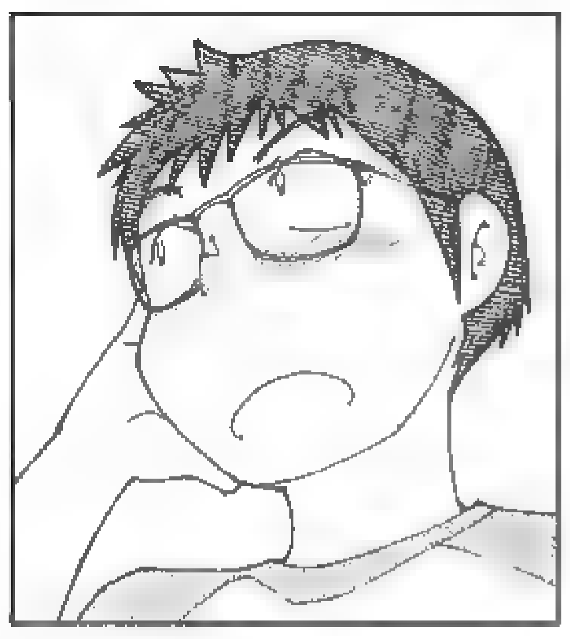
The protagonist of the story. His bizarre relationship with Urabe began after he licked her drool one day. He is as interested in girls as any boy his age, but Urabe takes the lead in their relationship and Tsubaki can't seem to initiate any progress between them.

Ayuko Oka (17)



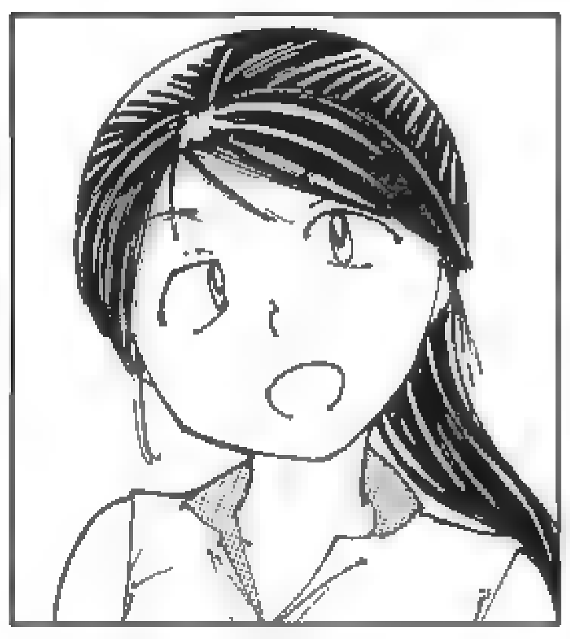
At 4'8", she's very small, but her figure is well-developed and quite gorgeous. She is Ueno's girlfriend. She often toys with Urabe through her impish personality. Like Tsubaki, she is responsive to Urabe's drool.

Kouhei Ueno (17)



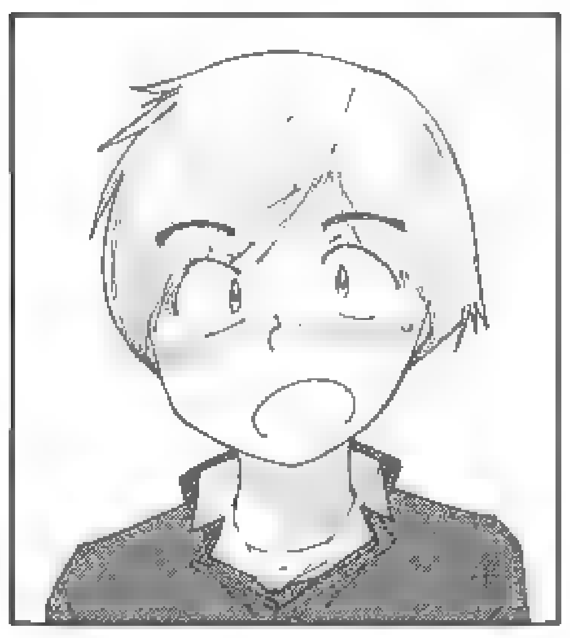
Tsubaki's best friend. He's been going out with their classmate, Oka, since they were sophomores. Ueno's fond way of talking about Oka frequently influences Tsubaki's ideas about relationships.

Ryouko Suwano (17)



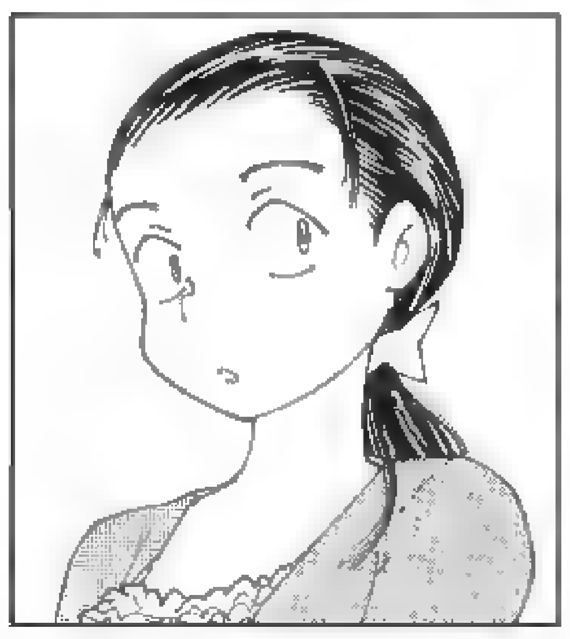
Tsubaki's classmate who shares his class duties. Her drooping eyes are her most charming feature. She knows Tsubaki and Urabe are dating, and what their "routine" is.

Tsukasa Hasegawa (16)



A sophomore in the photography club. He took a photo of Suwano without her knowledge, entered it into a photo contest and won. He says that he idolizes Suwano, but isn't interested in her romantically.

Youko Tsubaki (24)



Akira's sister, seven years his senior. She handles all the housework in place of their mother, who died when they were young. Akira is highly indebted to her.

HERE,
TSUBAKI.
HM?

CHAPTER 85: MYSTERIOUS SNOW

IT'S SNOWING.

IT'S COMING DOWN HARD.
AND THE FLAKES ARE BIG.
THIS SNOW
MIGHT ACTUALLY STICK.
YEAH.
TOMORROW,
WE MIGHT END UP DOING OUR ROUTINE IN THE SNOW.
SEE YA,
URABE.
YEAH,
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
KAZAMIDAI ★ SHOPPING DISTR
FLOWER MARKET
3F
MART
MORNING TEA
POP

DRUGSTOR
SaLa
So La

UH...
HI.
IT...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
AH...
Nicc
WHISK

URABE...
UH,
YES...
GRAB
AH...
HEY...
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
CUE COFFEE
DRUGSTORE
MATSUMOTO KIYOSU
HAA
HAA
RY CLEANERS

URABE...
UH...
YES!
じわっ
SNIFFLE
HUH?!
WH...
UH...
HEY...
WHAT'S WRONG?!
ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
GOSH,
HOW EMBARRASSING...
IF I'M CRYING LIKE THIS...
I...
CAN'T GO HOME NOW...
UH,
UHM...
URABE...
Y...
YES?

WOULD YOU
TAKE A BATH WITH ME?
A...
A BATH?!
WOW...
I NEVER EVEN KNEW
THAT THERE WAS
A PUBLIC BATH HOUSE IN THIS TOWN.
THE XTH OF EVERY MONTH
SERVICE
ゆ
BATHS
Cola
Cola
FLOWER BATHS
COME ON,
LET'S GO IN.
HUH?
AH...
HUH?!!

TWO, PLEASE.
SURE.
ADULT ... ¥
CHILD ... ¥
WEEKLY BUNSHU
THE XTH OF EVERY MONTH IS BATH HOUSE DAY♪
KCHAK
シュル
SWSSH
THIS HAS TURNED INTO A WEIRD EXPERIENCE ...
WHAP
SHFF

YOINK
HUH?
SNIFF
SNIFF...
H...
HEY...
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YEAH...
IT SMELLS LIKE...
MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS...
...
SPLASH
ャ
SPLASH
ャ

WHEW...
I FEEL BETTER...
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
SO...
UHM...
THAT GUY
YOU WERE WITH,
RIGHT BEFORE YOU CALLED OUT TO ME...
HUH?
OH...
I WENT OUT WITH HIM IN HIGH SCHOOL.
OH...
THE ONE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?
HUH?!
I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM?

YOU SAID HE WENT TO COLLEGE IN KANSAI,
AND YOU HAVEN'T
SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE...
YEAH,
THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT TODAY,
I BUMPED INTO HIM...
HE'S WORKING IN KANSAI,
AND HE JUST HAPPENED
TO BE HERE VISITING HIS FAMILY.
WE ONLY SPOKE A LITTLE,
BUT AS WE WERE TALKING, I REMEMBERED ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
AND ALL THESE EMOTIONS WELLED UP...
...
SO MUCH THAT YOU
CRIED?
YEAH.

HE WAS
THE FIRST BOY I EVER DATED,
AFTER ALL.
I GUESS
THE FIRST PERSON YOU DATED IN HIGH SCHOOL
IS ALWAYS SPECIAL.
WE BOTH
HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE DOING...
YOU SAID...
YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE, TOO,
RIGHT?
YES...
YOU SHOULD REALLY
TREASURE THAT PERSON.
WHISPER
ぼそっ
MAYBE I'LL JUST TELL HER...
HM?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

THE PERSON I'M GOING OUT WITH
IS TSUBAKI.
...IT'S TSUBAKI.
HUH?
WHAT?!!
BLUB...
SPLASH

YOU'RE ...
GOING OUT WITH AKIRA ?!!
...YES,
I'M DATING
YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER...
NO...
WAIT A MINUTE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, FOR JUST A CLASSMATE,
YOU COME TO OUR PLACE AN AWFUL LOT...
WHAT?
WHAT?
SPLASH
REALLY?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
...IT'S TRUE.
HAVE YOU
AND AKIRA
KISSED ALREADY?

NO, NOT YET.
WE HAVEN'T, AND...
JUST LIKE THE MAN YOU SAW TODAY, HE'S THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER DATED...
URABE.

PLEASE
BE GOOD TO MY BROTHER.
SPLISH ...
AH...
NO...
UHM ...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO ASK...
SPLASH

PLEASE
BE GOOD TO ME!
WOW...

ゆ
IT REALLY SNOWED A LOT
WHILE WE WERE IN THE BATH.
THERE'S A LOT ON THE GROUND...
SAVE ENERGY
ECO
WILL YOU...
BE OKAY GETTING HOME?
I WARMED UP IN THE BATH,
SO I'LL BE FINE.
OKAY,
SEE YOU LATER.

OH...
YOUKO!
AKIRA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU WERE LATE COMING HOME,
SO I CAME TO MEET YOU.
THE SNOW IS GETTING HEAVIER, TOO.
HERE'S AN UMBRELLA.
OH...
THAT EMPTY LOT
IS ALREADY
TOTALLY WHITE.

LOOKING AT THIS EMPTY LOT
REMINDS ME OF YOU, YOUKO.
HUH?
WHY IS THAT?

WHEN WE WERE LITTLE...
REMEMBER?
ONE MORNING AFTER IT SNOWED,
YOU WOKE ME UP AND BROUGHT ME HERE TO PLAY.
WHEN WE GOT HERE, YOU SAID, "I'M FIRST!"
OH...
I WAS THE FIRST ONE
TO LEAVE MY FOOTPRINT IN THE PURE WHITE SNOW.
FOR SOME REASON,
IT MADE ME HAPPY.

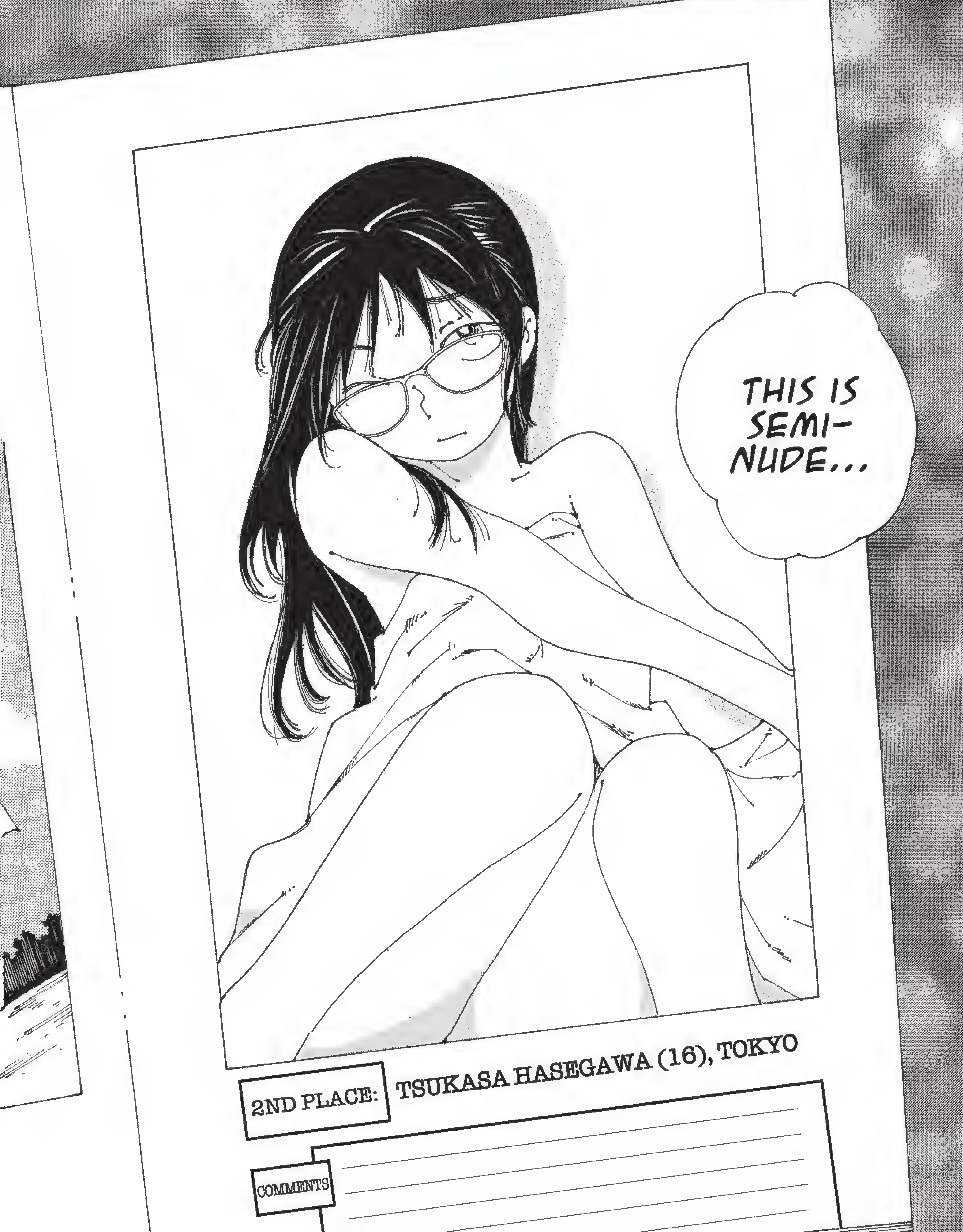
PLEASE
BE GOOD TO ME!
WILL THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE HIS FOOTPRINT ON HER... BE MY BROTHER...?
AKIRA.
HM?
WHAT'S UP,
YOUKO?

DAAH!!
SHOVE
ベチャッ
SPLAT
WHAT…
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!!
YOU'LL BE
THE FIRST BOY TO LEAVE A FOOTPRINT,
SO YOU'D BETTER STRAIGHTEN UP!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

END OF CHAPTER 85

WHOA...
axell
axell BLU-RAY DISCS
SEEK THE TRUE DEPTH OF BEAUTY!
WORKS WITH ALL MAKE/MODELS
A NEW AGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY!
MONTHLY PHOTO AGE
2014.
MAY
LENS SPOTLIGHT 2014
SPECIAL FEATURE: PORTRAIT TECHNIQUES
SPRING PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS
SUWANO,
YOUR PICTURE IS IN HERE AGAIN.
THIS WAS
TAKEN BY THAT SOPHOMORE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, RIGHT?
WHERE WAS IT SHOT?
IN HIS ROOM.
SUWANO...
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH THAT BOY?
WITH HASEGAWA?
NO,
NOT AT ALL.
REALLY?
BUT,
BEING ALONE WITH A BOY IN HIS ROOM WHILE HE TAKES YOUR PICTURE...
AND
DRESSED LIKE THIS...
axell
SEEK THE TRUE DEPTH
MONTHLY PHOTO AGE
MAY

CHAPTER 86: MYSTERIOUS PHOTO OP II


THIS IS SEMI-NUDE...
2ND PLACE: TSUKASA HASEGAWA (16), TOKYO
COMMENTS

I MEAN,
ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON,
axell axell BLU-RAY DISCS OF BEAUTY!
NORMALLY.
"NOR-MALLY,"
SURE.
BUT THERE'S REALLY NOTHING GOING ON.
HASEGAWA DOESN'T EVEN THINK OF WANTING TO DATE ME.
I'M MORE OF A...
HOW DO I PUT IT...
KK
AN "IDOL,"
HE SAYS.
KLI
OKAY,
SUWANO,
LOWER YOUR GAZE A BIT.
KLIK
OKAY,
THAT'S GOOD.
AFTERNOON 2
TWIN TAIL STRIKES
TEA

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
I GOT SOME GREAT SHOTS.
I'LL GO DOWNSTAIRS
AND MAKE SOME COFFEE.
GET DRESSED
WHILE I'M GONE, OKAY?
HASEGAWA ...
YES?
HIMUKE
TWIN TAIL STRIKES

OH...
WOULD YOU RATHER
HAVE REGULAR GREEN TEA INSTEAD OF COFFEE?
TWIN TAIL
HUH?
UH...
YEAH...
I THINK I'D PREFER GREEN TEA.
OKAY,
GREEN TEA IT IS.
I'LL BE BACK.
TWIN TAIL STRIKES
バターン
BTAM
THAT LOOK I GAVE HIM
WAS MY BEST WEAPON, TOO...
LIS KO
HIMURA
NO REACTION AT ALL...
REALLY,
THAT HASEGAWA ...
SLURP...
す
SURE IS STRANGE.
SUWANO...
HM?
TWIN TAIL STRIKES

YOUR SHIRT
IS BUTTONED UP WRONG.
AH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SUWANO...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY
KIND OF SCATTERBRAINED, AREN'T YOU?
SINCE YOU'RE SO PRETTY,
I FIGURED YOU WERE PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.
BUT YOU MAKE THE SAME SORTS OF MISTAKES
THAT ORDINARY GIRLS MAKE.
...
KLIK
HUH?
HEY...
YEP.

THAT LOOK JUST NOW
WAS REALLY CUTE!
SUWANO, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
YOU'RE THE BEST PHOTO SUBJECT OUT THERE.
TWIN TAIL STRIKES
I WANT TO CAPTURE LOTS OF DIFFERENT SIDES OF YOU FROM NOW ON, TOO.
WELL,
THANKS FOR TODAY.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW
WHEN I PLAN ANOTHER SHOOT!
BTAM

SUWANO!
YOU...
YOU SHOWED UP REALLY EARLY!
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?!
NO,
NOT THAT LONG.
OH, YEAH!
DID YOU SEE
THIS MONTH'S "PHOTO AGE"?
YES, I DID.
PHOTO AGE

THANKS TO YOU,
I WAS ABLE TO GET SECOND PLACE!
NEXT TIME, WE'LL AIM FOR FIRST!
SO LET'S TAKE LOTS OF GREAT SHOTS AGAIN TODAY!
OKAY,
SMILE!
パシャッ
KLIK

HIMUKEN
MOTEL CALIFORNIA
DARTS LOVE LIVE

HERE.
FOR YOU,
SUWANO.
IT'S STILL A LITTLE COLD OUT,
BUT I GOT ICE CREAM.
IS THAT OKAY?
SURE, THAT'S FINE.
YOU KNOW...
EATING ICE CREAM TOGETHER LIKE THIS,
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON A DATE, HUH?
HUH?
IF I EVER GET A GIRLFRIEND,
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER
DO THINGS LIKE THIS WITH HER...

BIP
BIP
I WONDER WHY...
IN ALL THESE PICTURES,
YOU HAVE A CHEERFUL EXPRESSION,
BUT SOMEHOW
YOU LOOK KIND OF UNHAPPY.
IS IT JUST...
MY IMAGINATION?

IT'S NOT YOUR IMAGINATION.
I REALLY AM
UNHAPPY TODAY.
YOU ARE ...?!
B...
BUT WHY?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
N...
NO, I DON'T.
YOU JUST SAID
"IF I EVER GET A GIRLFRIEND..."
BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GIRLFRIENDS ...
YOU DON'T EVEN CONSIDER ME, DO YOU?
TH...
THAT'S 'CAUSE...
I CONSIDER YOU THE PERFECT SUBJECT, SO YOU'RE LIKE MY IDOL!
BUT AS FAR AS DATING GOES, YOU'RE WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

THEN...
WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
HUH?
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS,
SUWANO?
JUMP
WELL, AT FIRST I WAS JUST CURIOUS,
BUT NOW...
DO YOU THINK I WOULD PUT UP
WITH ALL THESE PHOTOSHOOTS,
IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU?!

FORGET IT!
NO MORE PHOTO-SHOOTS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
ダッ
DASH
AH...
SUWANO!
WHAT IS IT?!
ドカッ
SWAKKK
THERE'S...
A FENCE THERE...

SUWANO!
WHUMP
REALLY...
YOU'RE A LOT MORE SCATTERBRAINED THAN I THOUGHT...
ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OW...
I BUMPED MY NOSE ...

AH...
OH, NO!
MY NOSE IS BLEEDING...
GO AHEAD.
TAKE A PICTURE.
HUH?

YOU WANT TO CAPTURE LOTS OF DIFFERENT SIDES OF ME, DON'T YOU?
SO GO AHEAD.
CAPTURE WHAT I LOOK LIKE RIGHT NOW.

!
JUMP
!!
WHOO OAAA!
I...
I'M SORRY!
I...
WASN'T THINKING ...

BUT...
IT'S LIKE...
YOU'RE REALLY
JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL, HUH?
YES, I AM.
YOU JUST NOTICED?
SO...
YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THAT
KISS. ♥

SUWANO SEEMS...
A LOT PRETTIER THAN SHE DID BEFORE...
AM I JUST SEEING THINGS?
HM?
WHAT IS IT, TSUBAKI?
HUH?
OH...
NOTHING...

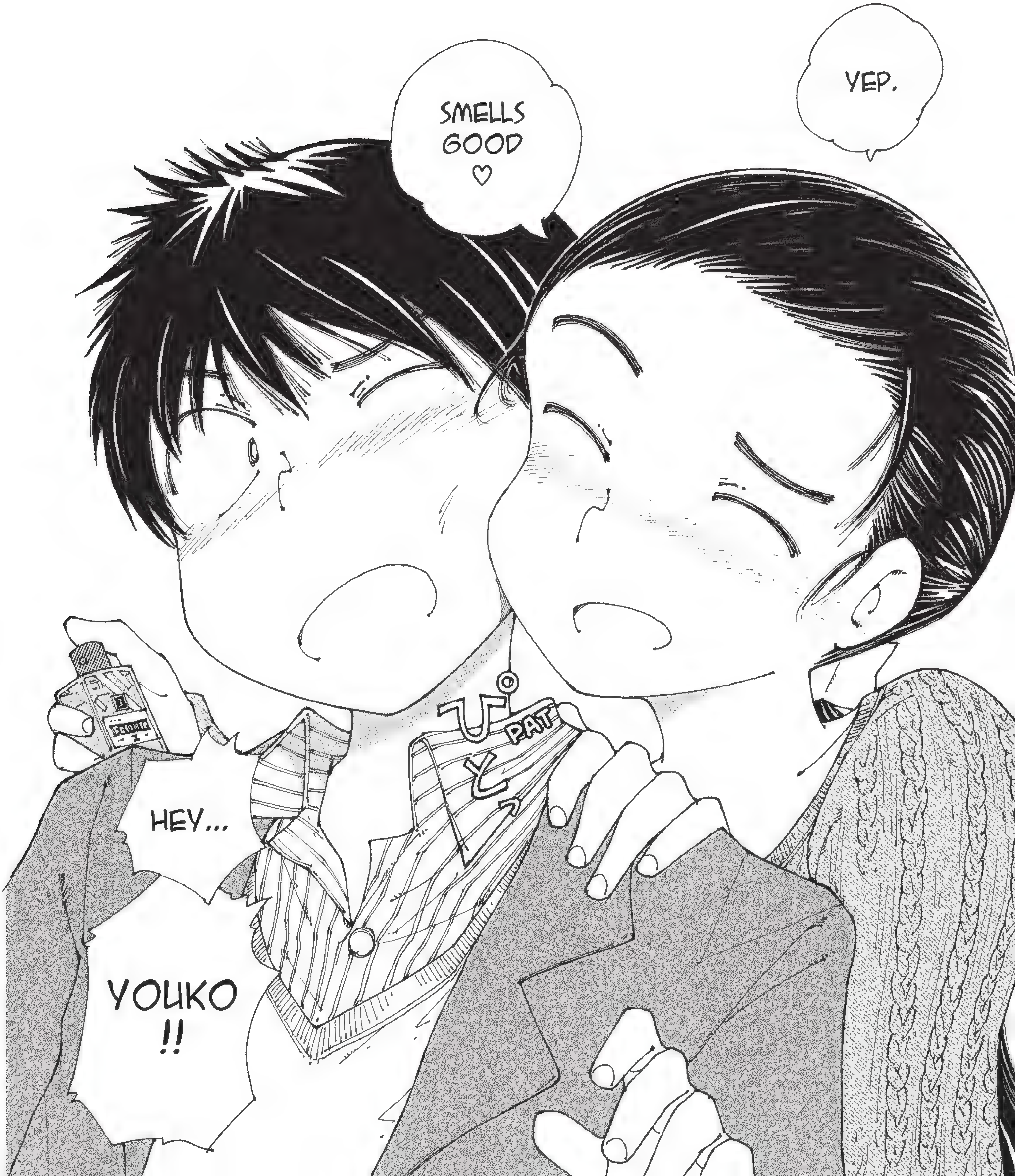
OH,
THAT'S RIGHT.
TSUBAKI.
WHAT?
WHAT I SAID TO YOU BEFORE...
COULD YOU
PRETEND THAT NEVER HAPPENED?
WHAT YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE?
YOU KNOW...
IF I COULD GO OUT WITH YOU,
WHEN I SAID
YOU COULD MAKE ME YOUR NUMBER 2.
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING NUMBER 2.
YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
I WON'T
BE ABLE TO DO THAT ANYMORE.
AH...

BECAUSE I HAVE
A BOYFRIEND NOW.
I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS GOING ON...
THAT'S JUST A LITTLE
DISAPPOINTING...
OF COURSE,
YO!
ALL DONE WITH YOUR CLASS DUTIES?
OKA!
URABE!!
I DON'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT AT ALL!!!

END OF CHAPTER 86

HUP.
HEY,
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HUH?
OH.
JUST TO UENO'S.
HMM...
PSSSHT
WHOA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

CHAPTER 87: MYSTERIOUS COLOGNE


YEP.
SMELLS GOOD ♡
ぴとっ
PAT
HEY...
YOUKO !!

WH—
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CLINGY?
AND
WHAT DID YOU JUST
SPRAY ON ME?!
PUSH
OH,
THIS?
IT'S COLOGNE.
LOOK, YOU'RE
AT THE AGE WHERE YOU START TO WORRY ABOUT PERSONAL GROOMING,
RIGHT?
THAT'S A GIFT FROM ME.
A GIFT?
WHAT'S GOING ON,
OUT OF NOWHERE?
IT'S THE PERFECT SCENT
FOR A BOY YOUR AGE.
NICE AND REFRESHING.
GO ON, TAKE IT.
HMM...
THANKS,
I GUESS.
WELL,
I'LL BE GOING.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DATE
WITH URABE!
GRIN
にゃ~
~っ♡
WHEN HE GOES TO UENO'S HOUSE,
HE USUALLY DRESSES MUCH MORE ROUGHLY.
OLD JACKET
JEANS HE WEARS AROUND THE HOUSE
WORN-OUT SNEAKERS
IF HE'S GOING OUT ALL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT,
IT'S GOTTA BE A DATE!
JACKET HE SPENT HIS NEW YEAR'S ALLOWANCE ON
BRAND-NEW PANTS
LEATHER SHOES HE ALMOST NEVER WEARS
THAT COLOGNE...
IS THE SAME TYPE THAT I GAVE MY BOYFRIEND IN MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL...

MY LITTLE BROTHER
IS AT THAT AGE NOW...
GOOD LUCK, AKIRA!
SUNY
BANANA MOON GOLD
FRIDAY MID NIGHT
JUNK
PRO
I'VE NEVER PUT ON COLOGNE BEFORE...
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
PSHT
PSHT

TSUBAKI!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
URABE!
SHFF
FRONT
SORRY I'M ALWAYS LATE.
IT'S OKAY.
GIRLS HAVE TO DO MORE
TO GET READY, RIGHT?
TRIANG
BANK
AOI
IKEKAWA
DID YOU EAT LUNCH ALREADY?
NO.
THEN,
LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING.
RICO
TWIN TAIL
TICK
TICK
TICK

1:30, HUH...
RIGHT ABOUT NOW,
THEY'RE PROBABLY HAVING LUNCH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE FIRST TIME MY BOYFRIEND WORE THAT COLOGNE ON A DATE,
WE WENT TO KARAOKE...
KARAOKE
Jumbo ECHO
JUMBO ECHO
WHEN I'M ALONE WITH YOU IN THIS CLASSROOM ♪
IT'S FULL OF LAND MINES THAT BLOW ALL LOGIC AWAY
IT'S FULL OF LAND MINES THAT BLOW ALL LOGIC AWAY ♪
SO WATCH YOUR STEP ♪

BUT, TO BE HONEST, ♪
I REALLY WISH YOU'D STEP ON ONE ♪
OKAY, NEXT!
YOU'RE UP, ARIMA!
HURRY UP AND PICK A SONG!
OH... OKAY!
SNIFF SNIFF
ARIMA,
YOU'RE WEARING THE COLOGNE I GAVE YOU?
YEAH.
SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME AND ALL.
SOME-HOW,
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE STAINED
WITH MY COLOR...
COME ON,
DON'T BE SILLY.

SMOOCH
ちゅ
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME
I EVER INITIATED A KISS...
I GUESS... I WAS INTOXICATED BY THE SCENT OF THE COLOGNE I GAVE HIM...
I WONDER IF THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE TWO...
IF SHE SMELLS HIS COLOGNE,
AND THEY GO INTO A KARAOKE ROOM TOGETHER...
WOW,
THIS IS REALLY RARE...
SONGS
KARAOKE HALL ♪
YAKITORI
HATCHO
B-1
KEIO

MOMOKA IMAI'S NEW SINGLE
"LOVE IS A CROSSFIRE!"
on sale
GOING TO KARAOKE WITH YOU, I MEAN.
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME?
YEAH.
WELL,
NONE OF THE MOVIES LOOKED INTERESTING,
AND WE WENT BOWLING THE OTHER DAY.
10% OFF
I GUESS IT'S A NICE CHANGE.
MENU
WHAT WOULD YOU
LIKE TO DRINK?
ICED COFFEE.
OKAY,
I'LL ORDER.
AH,
WHIFF
MAY I PLACE AN ORDER?
AN ICED COFFEE
AND A GINGER ALE.
MENU

ALSO,
SOME POPCORN,
AND POCKY.
SNIFF
SNIFF
YES.
THANK YOU.
SNIFF
SNIFF
GA
CHAK
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH?
OH...
SORRY.
FWIP
O...
OKAY...
READY TO PICK SOME SONGS?
SURE.
MENU
TICK
TICK
TICK
THAT'S RIGHT... I REMEMBER NOW...

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME
I KISSED ARIMA,
AND AFTER THAT, I...
PUT MY ARMS AROUND HIS NECK...
AND THEN I PUSHED HIM DOWN...
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!
EVEN IF I WAS INTOXICATED BY THE COLOGNE, I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY BACK THEN!

BUT THEN, ARIMA SAID...
GRAB
TSUBAKI!
I...
DON'T LIKE DOING
THIS KIND OF THING
IN KARAOKE ROOMS.
Y...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I... I'M SORRY.
WELL...
I'M GLAD
THAT YOU'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH ME...
LET'S JUST...
SAVE IT
FOR THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE...
OKAY?

HE DID THE RIGHT THING
STOPPING ME THEN...
AH...
ARIMA REALLY WAS
THE SERIOUS TYPE...
OKAY.
BUT IF THAT
HAD BEEN AKIRA...
AND URABE MADE A MOVE ON HIM...
AND PUSHED HIM DOWN...
URABEEEE!
ガバッ
GRAB

HE WOULD DEFINITELY
GO ALONG WITH IT...
THAT BOY
IS SO WEAK-WILLED...
URABE HAS
A PRETTY NICE BODY,
I FOUND OUT AT THE BATH HOUSE...
SO THEY MIGHT EVEN...
GO ALL THE WAY...
AND URABE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE "FIRST TIMES"...
NEITHER WILL AKIRA...
JO
LT
PHOENIX GOLD(10)

OH, NO!
GIVING AKIRA THAT COLOGNE
WAS A MISTAKE !!
THEY'RE TOO YOUNG TO GO "ALL THE WAY"!!
SWSH
うろ
うろ
SWSH
AKIRAAAAAAA!!!
I PREFER GLASSES
LAOX
OH,
THIS SONG IS
A DUET.
URABE,
CAN YOU SING THIS?
YEAH,
I CAN.
THEN,
LET'S PUT IT ON.
CARBON PIZZ
THE SETTING SUN ON OUR WAY HOME ♪
THE SETTING SUN ON OUR WAY HOME ♪
SHINES ON US LIKE A SPOTLIGHT ♪
SHINES ON US
LIKE A SPOTLIGHT ♪

I'M LOOKING AROUND AS WE WALK ♪
BECAUSE I'M AFRAID TO LOOK INTO YOUR EYES ♪
BUT WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU,
YOU'RE STARING AT ME ♪
YOU'RE SUCH A COWARD,
IT'S NOT FAIR ♪
〈 30 SECOND INTERLUDE ♪ 〉
HUH?
HEY...
WHAT ?!!
URABE ...!

TSUBAKI,
DID YOUR SISTER
GIVE YOU COLOGNE?
HUH...?
YOU SMELL DIFFERENT
THAN USUAL.
OH...
ACTU-ALLY,
YEAH, SHE DID.
AS I WAS LEAVING, SHE HANDED IT TO ME, SAYING IT WAS A GIFT.
IS IT WEIRD?
NOPE.
IT SMELLS
VERY GOOD.

I'M SURE
YOUR SISTER
IS CHEERING YOU ON.
CHEERING ME ON?
UH...
NOTHING.
NEVER MIND.
PLEASE
BE GOOD TO MY BROTHER.
I WONDER IF HIS SISTER IS CHEERING US ON...
FLASH
I WANT TO OPEN A
INTO YOU SOON ♪

OH...
THE INTERLUDE'S OVER.
I WANT TO OPEN ♪
I WANT TO OPEN A NEW DOOR ♪
INTO YOU SOON ♪
A NEW DOOR
INTO YOU SOON ♪

ニュッ
SHOOM
ちゅ
SHLP
ぽんっ
POP
HIS SISTER...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO ASK...
PLEASE BE GOOD TO ME.
ぱくっ
POK

ジャッ
KRACKLE...
YEEK...!
WITH ECHO
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG,
URABE?

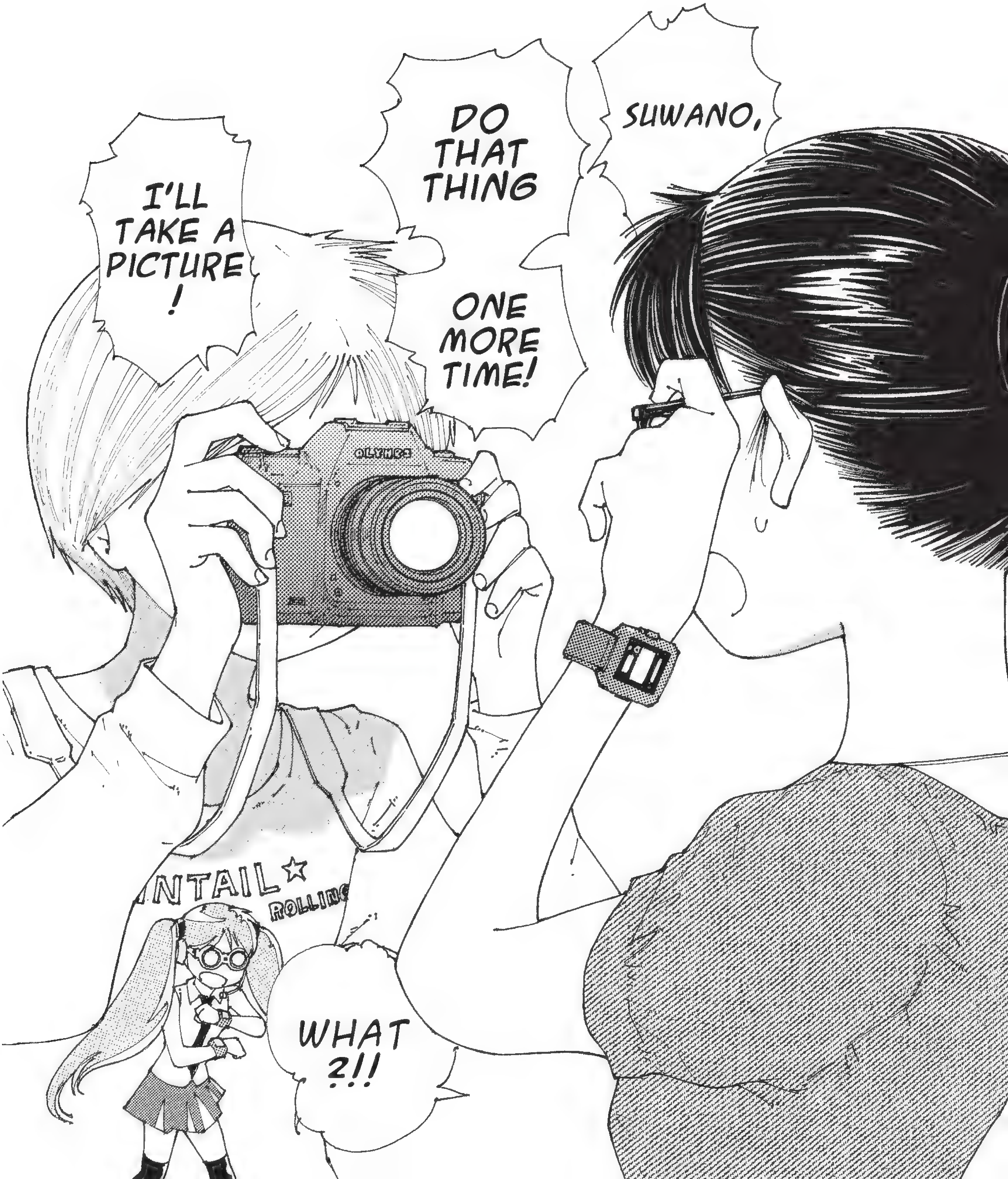
HEY, TSUBAKI...
BEFORE YOU LEFT TODAY,
CANDID CAMERA! B
NEW TV SERIES MY FRIEND
ARTA
CAFE DEN PA
DENPA
DID YOU...
TOUCH
YOUR SISTER IN ANY WAY?
UH?
YEAH...
SHE NUZZLED UP TO MY CHEEK,
WHEN SHE GAVE ME THE COLOGNE.
DOTOTE
FAMIMART
EYE FUL
YOU KNOW, YOUR SISTER...
I THINK...
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH A SISTER
AS A MOTHER TO YOU...
HUH?
WELL,
MY MOM WASN'T AROUND,
SO IN FACT,
SHE DID KIND OF TAKE MY MOM'S PLACE...

14
MERCY
I'M HOME...
ドタ ドタ
TROT TROT
AKIRA!
GIVE ME BACK THAT COLOGNE!
WHAT?
I KNOW A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS HAPPEN TO YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL...
BUT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS YOUR STUDIES!
AS FOR THIS,
YOU DON'T NEED IT YET, SO I'LL HOLD ON TO IT!
URABE WAS RIGHT.
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH MY SISTER
AS MY MOTHER...
ドタ ドタ
TROT TROT

END OF CHAPTER 87

パ
WHIP
ちゃっ
SHPP
SUWANO,
WHEN YOU PUT ON YOUR GLASSES,
YOU ALWAYS
SHAKE YOUR BANGS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST,
DON'T YOU?

CHAPTER 88: MYSTERIOUS "RUT"


SUWANO,
DO THAT THING
ONE MORE TIME!
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE!
NTAIL☆
ROLLING
WHAT?!!

IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
EVERY TIME I DO THE LEAST LITTLE THING,
HE TELLS ME HE WANTS A PICTURE.
IT'S ANNOYING.
PHOTOGRAPHY IS HASEGAWA'S HOBBY, AFTER ALL.
HASEGAWA IS YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
THE ONE YOU JUST STARTED DATING?
PENGUIN BAKERY
AND
HE'S ALREADY DRIVING ME NUTS...
SO,
WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
DO YOU LET HIM TAKE A PICTURE?
ちゅ～
SLUUURP
I ALWAYS END UP LETTING HIM.

I...
I CAN'T TAKE A PICTURE?
BUT...
WHEN YOU'RE DOING THAT THING...
YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE...
WHEN HE CALLS ME CUTE,
I JUST CAN'T TURN HIM DOWN...
SWOON
でれ
SWOON
でれ
PENGUIN BAKERY
SUWANO SEEMS
DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...
SHE WAS MORE OF A COOL BEAUTY...
LOVE IS SCARY...
BUT,
YOU SEEM SO PURE AND INNOCENT.
I FEEL KINDA JEALOUS WATCHING YOU.
RIGHT, URABE?
LIKE,
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME,
YOU CAN GET INTO A RUT.
A RUT?
YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND HAVE THOSE, TOO?
WELL,
I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL THEM "RUTS"...
BUT, LIKE... WE GET USED TO EACH OTHER...

LIKE WHEN I'M DRINKING A CAN OF JUICE, I'LL SAY...
OH.
WANT A DRINK?
AND I OFFER SOME TO HIM...
NOT TOO LONG AGO,
HE WOULD HAVE BLUSHED.
BUT RECENTLY...
OH.
WANT A DRINK?
SURE!
THANKS!
...HE'LL JUST TAKE IT AND DRINK IT.
AT SUCH TIMES,
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO EACH OTHER.
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT?
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND, OKA?
WELL...
ACTUALLY...

WHO ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH?!
IS HE IN OUR CLASS?
I WON'T TELL YOU FOR NOTHING!
HUH?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT ME TO PAY?
5,000 YEN.
THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH!
WHEW...
IT'S GETTING TO THE POINT
WHERE THIS UNIFORM'S REALLY HOT...
IT IS MAY ALREADY.
SKY FISH

ダッ
DASH
チャリーン
CHAKING
¥120
ピッ
BEEP
COOL
ガコンッ
KAKLUNK
COFFEE
プシッ
PSSHT
COFFEE
GULP GULP
URABE!

SFF
TSUBAKI,
WANT A DRINK?
COFFEE
BAD CAT
OH,
THANKS!
GRAB
AH...

THANKS.
ECO
COOL & ECOLO
SURE...
OFFEE
CAT
BITTER
WELL,
URABE,
TIME FOR OUR ROUTINE!

HERE
TSUBAKI.
POK
ぱっ
!
CRACKLE
WELL,
SEE YOU,
TSUBAKI.
AH...
UH,
YEAH.
LATER!
...
?

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHEN I TASTED URABE'S DROOL,
I FELT SOME SORT OF ZAP IN MY CHEST...
I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK,
AKIRA.
CHOCO
WATER

GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
H...
HEY!
STOP THAT!
GEEZ!
WHY ARE YOU DRINKING MY DRINK?!
GRAB
I WAS GOING TO FINISH IT!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WE'RE FAMILY.
EVEN WITH FAMILY,
I PREFER TO KEEP THESE THINGS ORDERLY!
THAT'S JUST HOW I AM!
WAT

HEY,
IT'S EMPTY.
AWW...
YOU JUST GULPED IT DOWN LIKE IT WAS NOTHING...
IF THIS HAD BELONGED TO A GIRL YOU LIKED
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN MORE EXCITED TO DRINK IT...
GRRR
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SERIOUSLY!
OH...
CRACKLE

WHAT'S WRONG,
AKIRA?
YOU'RE CLUTCHING YOUR CHEST,
AND YOU WENT QUIET...
ダッ
DASH
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
HUH?
ピンポーン
DING
DONG

DING DONG
DING DONG
SHE'S NOT ANSWERING...
IS SHE OUT?
WHO IS IT?
AH...
URABE?
IT'S ME!
TSUBAKI!
TSUBAKI...?
...
I'M SORT OF TIED UP RIGHT NOW,
SO I CAN'T ANSWER THE DOOR.
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING,
CAN YOU TELL ME FROM THERE?
UH...

WELL...
IT'S JUST...
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THIS...
I'M SORRY
ABOUT TODAY.
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL,
YOU KNOW...
WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT
FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME, RIGHT?
TODAY,
WHEN YOU LET ME HAVE
A DRINK OF YOUR COFFEE...

A LONG TIME AGO,
COFFEE
BAD
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN MORE EXCITED TO DRINK IT,
BUT TODAY, I JUST DRANK IT LIKE IT WAS TOTALLY NORMAL.
AT SOME POINT,
I SORT OF GOT USED TO HAVING YOU BESIDE ME.
WHEN I REALIZED THAT,
ALL OF A SUDDEN,
I FELT REALLY BAD...
...
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE
JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
YEAH.

10-08
UR
BANG

YOU DON'T NEED
TO APOLOGIZE
FOR SOMETHING THAT TRIVIAL...
WHOA ...
I WAS
ポタ
DRIP
DRIP
ポタ
JUST IN THE BATH.
SO IT'S TRUE. ...

IF I DON'T
LOOK LIKE THIS
THESE DAYS,
YOU WON'T
BLUSH FOR ME.
SLAM

WHEN I USE EYE DROPS,
I ALWAYS MISS ON THE FIRST TRY.
DROP
AND WHEN I MISS,
I HAVE A HABIT OF SHAKING MY HEAD AROUND.
PENGUIN BRE
AND WHEN HE SAID...

THAT I LOOK CUTE DOING THAT,
I LET HIM TAKE MY PICTURE AGAIN.
♪
BUT
IS IT NORMAL TO GET LIKE THIS
JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE CALLS YOU CUTE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK,
URABE?
ME?
I...
DON'T REALLY...

MORE THAN WHEN HE CALLS ME CUTE,
I THINK TSUBAKI IS THE ONE WHO LOOKS CUTER WHEN HE BLUSHES...
URABE...
HM?

YOU HAVE...
THIS REALLY
LOVE-STRUCK LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
HUH?
YOU'VE BOTH CHANGED PERSONALITIES !!
TURN
AND YOU WERE ALWAYS
THE COOL TYPE, TOO...

END OF CHAPTER 88

トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
ジュ〜ッ
SIZZLE
ジャッ
ZHAA
ジャッ
ZHAA
ポト
DROP
グツ
BUBBLE
グツ
BUBBLE

CHAPTER 89: MYSTERIOUS CURRY RICE

DIET
VEGGIES
YOUR GROUP MADE CURRY, OKA?
NO FAIR!
ISN'T THAT TOO EASY?
SIMPLE IS DELICIOUS,
YOU KNOW!

HOT!
POP バチッ
SNAP バチッ
NOT ONLY IS IT TASTY,
BUT IT'S ALSO EASY TO MAKE,
SO WE GET TO EAT BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE.
CHOP
CAN I TRY A TASTE?
SURE.
OH,
IT'S GOOD! ♪
POK ぽくっ
ARGH!
WE'RE MAKING SPINACH WITH SESAME DRESSING ...
DARN IT!
BUT THE TASTE OF CURRY IS STILL IN MY MOUTH,
SO THE SPINACH DOESN'T TASTE GOOD!
NOTHING CAN BEAT CURRY!

SNIFF くん
くん SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IN THE GIRLS' COOKING CLASS TODAY,
YOU MADE CURRY, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU CAN SMELL IT?
HEY,
IS THERE ANY LEFT OF THE CURRY YOUR GROUP MADE?
WE MADE A LOT,
BUT WE GAVE SOME TO THE OTHERS,
SO IT'S ALL GONE.
RATS!
I WANTED TO EAT THE CURRY
THAT YOU MADE...
SLUMP がっ

THEN
WHY DON'T I
MAKE SOME FOR YOU?
R...
REALLY ?!
SURE.
CURRY'S NO BIG DEAL.
IN TWO DAYS,
ON SUNDAY,
COME TO MY PLACE.
I'LL MAKE YOU
CURRY FOR LUNCH.
YAAY!!
ALL RIGHT !!
I'M
A LITTLE BIT
PARTICULAR ABOUT MY CURRY.

I CRITICIZE MY SISTER'S A LOT.
THE POTATOES ARE STILL HARD...
HMM...
THE MEAT ISN'T COOKED RIGHT...
THE SPICINESS...
PEOPLE WHO NEVER MAKE IT DON'T GET TO COMPLAIN!!
HUH ...?
REALLY?
OH...
I'M JUST KIDDING!
I WOULD NEVER CRITICIZE YOUR CURRY!
I'M ALWAYS SUPER SWEET ON YOU!
...
OH,
AKIRA,
ARE YOU GOING OUT?

WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST?
AH, I'LL JUST HAVE SOME MILK.
TOP-OF-THE-MORN MILK
ゴ GULP ゴ GULP
OKAY, I'M GOING.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
I'LL BE BACK BY THIS EVENING.
TOP-OF-THE-MORN MILK
MILK IS ENOUGH FOR ME THIS MORNING!
CAUSE THE CURRY I'M HAVING FOR LUNCH...

IS THE FIRST THING URABE'S EVER COOKED FOR ME!
I DID HAVE SOME MISO SOUP, THOUGH...
DING ♪ DONG
WEL-COME.
COME IN.
THANKS!
WOW,
SHE'S IN AN APRON! ♪

SIT AT THE TABLE
AND WAIT FOR A BIT.
SNICK ニャッ
SNICK ニャッ
SHAAA ニャッ
SNICK ニャッ
SNICK ニャッ
OKAY!

BUTTER
TMP
SIZZLE
OKAY,
I'M STARTING NOW.
HUH?
OH,
OKAY.
GRAB
ガッ
TOSS
ポーン
SPIN
カラ
カラ
カラ
SPIN
SPIN
SHINK
ジャキン

ジャキジャキ
SNIP SNIP
ジャキジャキ
SNIP SNIP
バララ
SKATTER

ゴンゴン
THUNK
THUNK
ウウウウ…
ZZLE...
ゴンゴン
THUNK
THUNK
SIZZ ジュウウ
GRAB
グッ
ポーン
TOSS
SIZZLE...
ジュウウ…
シャキシャキシャキ
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
ゴンゴン

I SEE...
SINCE URABE'S SO GOOD WITH SCISSORS,
SHE USES THEM INSTEAD OF A KNIFE...
BUT STILL...
ZHAA
ZHAA
WATCHING A GIRL'S BACK WHILE SHE COOKS
KINDA WHETS THE APPE-TITE...

AH,
SORRY.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME
BEFORE IT'S DONE.
ジューッ
SIZZLE
THAT'S FINE, THAT'S FINE!
TAKE YOUR TIME.
I'LL
JUST HANG OUT.
BECAUSE SEEING URABE FROM BEHIND
IS LIKE AN APPETIZER TO ME ♡
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
YEP.
THE RICE IS READY.

HMM.
WELL THEN,
I'M DIGGING IN!
HELP YOURSELF.

THE CARROT'S SHAPED LIKE A HEART...
UH...
UHM,
URABE,
THIS CARROT IS...
WHEN I CUT THE VEGETABLES,
I ADDED
A LITTLE SPECIAL TOUCH.
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
THAT'S WHEN!
OH...

ぱく
POK
IS IT GOOD?
IS IT GOOD?
IT'S GREAT!
I COULD NEVER THINK IT'S NOT GOOD!
OH,
URABE,
ARE YOU WASHING THE DISHES?
YEAH.
I'LL HELP YOU.
OKAY,
THEN WOULD YOU
WIPE THE DISHES DRY,
AND SET THEM OVER THERE?
GOT IT.

SEEMS LIKE...
THE MOOD IS PRETTY GOOD...
GLANCE
キラッ
MAYBE... THIS IS A GOOD TIME?
キュッ
SQK
キュ
SQK
トン
TNK
ゴクッ
GULP
I'LL GO FOR IT...

URABE.
SUSHI AJIGIN
グイッ
TUG

ピトッ
SLIP
DON'T.
IF WE DO THAT NOW,
OUR FIRST KISS
WILL TASTE LIKE CURRY!

AH...
Y...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WOULDN'T WANT THAT.
AH HA HA ...
LIFT
WELL,
THANKS FOR LUNCH TODAY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
WAIT, TSUBAKI.

OUR ROUTINE FOR TODAY...
POP
WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW,
TSUBAKI.

AH...
YEAH!
BTAM
WE JUST ATE CURRY...
BUT TODAY'S ROUTINE
TASTED REALLY SWEET...
MAYBE WE REALLY COULD'VE KISSED, THEN...
THE CURRY WE ATE WAS SPICY,
BUT THE KISS AFTERWARD WAS SWEET! ♡
...KINDA LIKE THAT!
AW YEAH~
FIRST IMAGINARY PRE
FIRST KISS IMAGINARY PRESS CONFERENCE
KLICK
KLICK
KLICK
I'M HOME.

HUH?
DINNER TONIGHT IS CURRY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I JUST HAD CURRY FOR LUNCH...
...
IT'S GOOD!
TRULY, NOTHING BEATS CURRY!

END OF CHAPTER 89

SNAP
SNAP
SNAP

SHAKK
シャッ
URABE,
HOW'S THE FIT?!
WAAAAH!!
鈴♡

CHAPTER 90: ✂ MYSTERIOUS SHOPPING

CATFISH
AAH!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
IT'S PERFECT!
WITH THAT, YOU'LL TOTALLY
BEWITCH TSUBAKI THIS SUMMER!
FORGET THAT!
CLOSE IT!
CLOSE IT!
SUMMER SWI WEAR
SUMMER BATHING SUITS
BUSTY EFFECT
ARE YOU GOING TO GET THAT ONE?
HMM...

YEAH.
I AM.
CATFISH
OH!
YOU'RE GETTING THAT ONE, THEN?
HANG ON A SEC.
SHFF
URABE!
POKE
YOU SHOULD
WEAR THAT SWIMSUIT UNDER YOUR CLOTHES FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
HUH?

CATFISH
I'M STILL WEARING
THE SWIMSUIT I JUST BOUGHT.
WEARING A SWIMSUIT WHILE OUT SHOPPING
MAKES IT REALLY
FEEL LIKE SUMMER.
ACTUALLY, I'M DOING THE SAME.
BUT
I HAVEN'T PAID FOR IT...
OH, I ALREADY
SETTLED
THAT FOR YOU.
CATFISH
BUT...
I FEEL BAD.
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
I JUST GOT PAID FROM MY PART-TIME JOB.
SUMMER 2014

PLUS
THE THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE WEARING
A SWIMSUIT THAT I BOUGHT FOR YOU
ぞく♡
SHIVER
CATFISH
KINDA GIVES ME THE SHIVERS...
ぞく♡
SHIVER
...
SUMMER IS AWESOME,
WITH ALL THE GIRLS GOING AROUND
IN SUCH SKIMPY CLOTHES...
LUPIN
...I CAN'T DENY THAT.

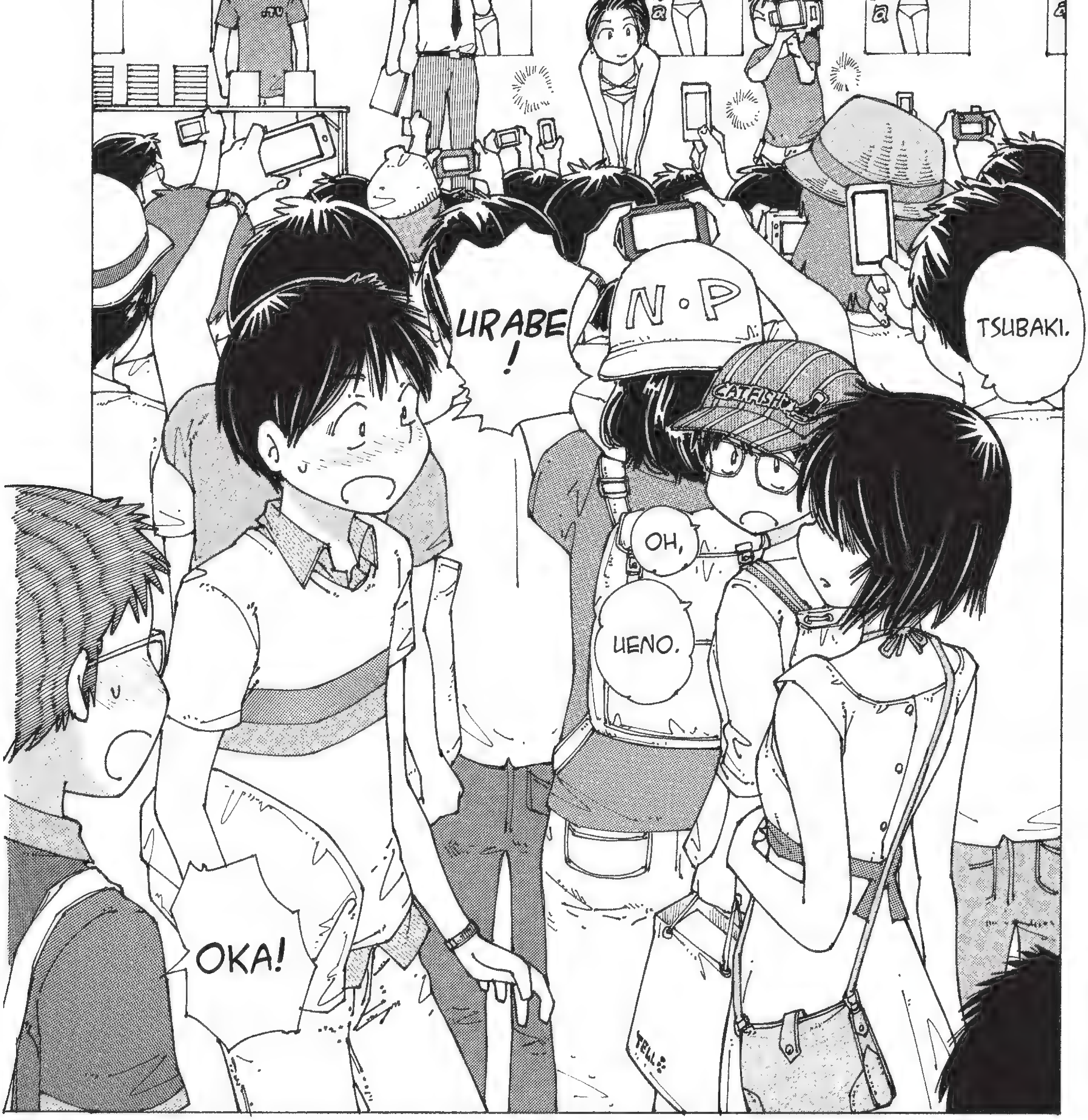
H&W
JUNK
I LOVE ...SSES
ISETAN
HIROSH
CARP GIRLS
YEAH,
THE BEST WAY TO SHOP IN SUMMER
IS WITH OTHER GUYS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
NO, SERIOUSLY!
I MEAN IT!
BECAUSE
IF I WERE
WITH OKA,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
STARE AT ALL THESE GIRLS IN SKIMPY CLOTHES AROUND TOWN.
NO WAY! REALLY? ♡
AH HA HA ♡
TEXA
STARE...
...GOOD POINT!
IF I WERE WITH URABE,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THEM!
HM?
WHAT'S WITH
THAT BIG CROWD...

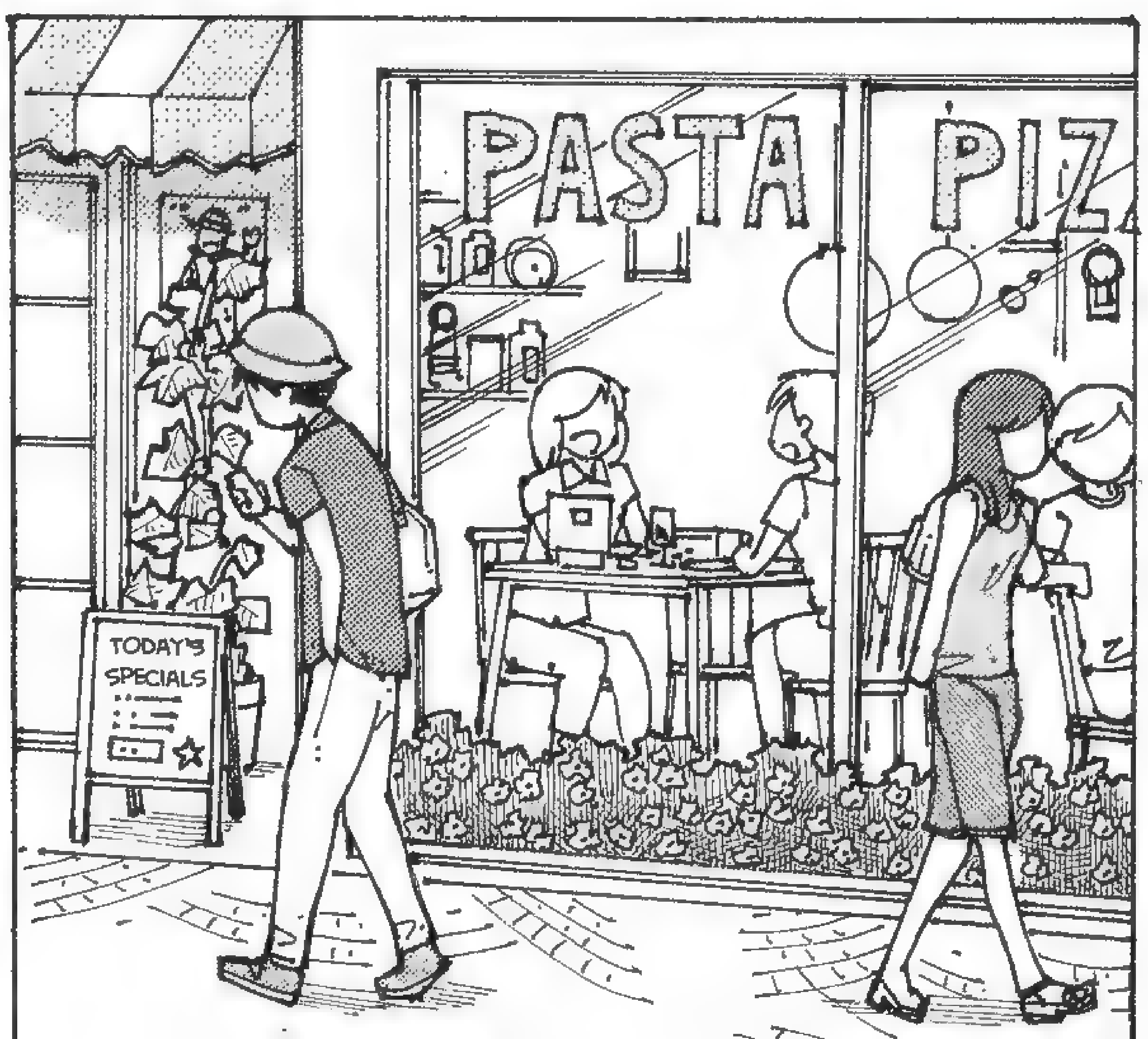
WHEW...
WE SURE BOUGHT A LOT OF STUFF.
I BOUGHT
SANDALS AND
A HAT, TOO!
CATFISH
I BOUGHT
A T-SHIRT AND A SKIRT.
I'M HUNGRY.
OKAY.
WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BREAK?
Miku♥
WHY IS THERE
SUCH A BIG CROWD...
MIZUFO BANK
UR
ABD
TELL

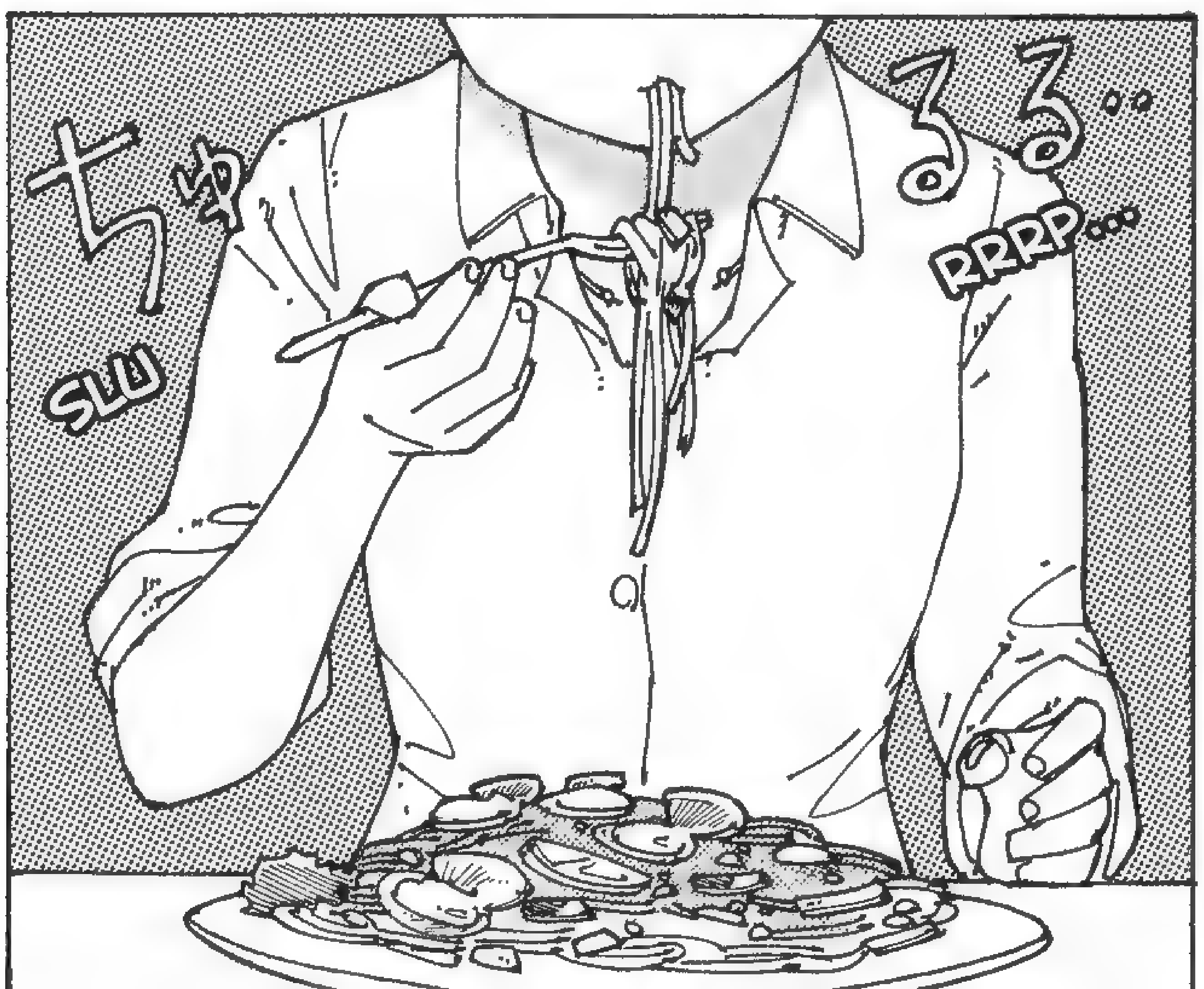
KLICK
KLICK
MANA OKITA'S NEW DVD
Mana Mana
KLI-CK
WHOA...
MANA OKITA
IS HERE FOR SOME KIND OF PROMOTION!
HUH?
HUH?
WHO'S THAT?
BORDER
SHE'S A GRAVURE IDOL
WHO'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.
Mana
MANA OKITA
Mana

パシャッ
KLICK
パシャッ
KLICK
パシャッ
KLICK
パシャッ
KLICK
パシャッ
KLICK
パシャッ
KLICK
WOW...
YEAH ...

IT REALLY IS
A GOOD THING IT'S JUST US GUYS TODAY.
IF WE WERE WITH OUR GIRLFRIENDS,
WE'D NEVER GET AWAY WITH STANDING HERE WATCHING THIS.
GOOD POINT...!
LET'S GET CLOSER!
NO PUSHING, PLEASE!
NO PUSHING, PLEASE!
Mana
Mana
TV
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
QUIT PUSHING!
OW...
OWW...
GAME
TROMP
TROMP
ACK...
SHOVE
AH,
I'M SORRY...


TSUBAKI.
URABE!
N・P
CATFISH
OH,
UENO.
OKA!
TELL


PASTA PIZ
TODAY'S SPECIALS


ちゅるる..
SLU
RRRP...

ARE YOU SURE
YOU DON'T MIND TREATING US?
N—
NOT AT ALL!
TSUBAKI AND I
WILL COVER YOU TWO.
STILL, I WASN'T EXPECTING
TO SEE YOU TWO IN THIS AREA.
WERE YOU SHOPPING?
WHAT DID YOU BUY?
...
SWIMSUITS!
CATFISH
WE PICKED THEM OUT
FOR EACH OTHER.
SWIMSUITS...!
BY THE WAY,
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
HMM...
SINCE THERE'S FOUR OF US,
WE COULD DO KARAOKE, OR AN ARCADE,
OR BOWLING...
IT'S OKAY, REALLY.

HUH?
YOU AND OKA ARE GOING OUT.
YOU CAN GO ON A DATE
WITHOUT URABE AND ME.
IT'S NOT OFTEN
US 4 CLASSMATES MEET UP OUTSIDE SCHOOL.
IT'S FINE, REALLY.
AH...
SO URABE
ALSO KNOWS THAT WE'RE...
CATFISH
OH, I KNOW.
I TOLD HER.
IN THAT CASE,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LET'S ALL
HAVE A BLAST TOGETHER!
LUPIN
MAN, THAT WAS FUN.
URABE, LEFT! LEFT!
URABE, YOU'RE GOOD!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ZOMBIE'S SHOOTING!!
YOU KNOW, URABE,
YOU'RE A LOT MORE CHEERFUL THAN YOU LOOK.
REALLY?

HEY.
YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH URABE.
WHISPER
THAT WAY, WE CAN ALL
HAVE FUN ON DOUBLE DATES!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS ...
WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR AGES ALREADY!
SEE YA, URABE!
LATER!
UNR
BYE!
URABE,
YOU BOUGHT A SWIMSUIT TODAY?
THAT'S RIGHT.

LISTEN ...
IF YOU WANT,
WOULD YOU WEAR
THE SWIMSUIT YOU GOT TODAY
AND GO WITH ME
TO THE BEACH SOMETIME?
SHOOM
POK
POP
SHLP
ちゅ

ニヤッ
ZHAA
I'M NOT REALLY HAPPY
TO BE INVITED WHEN HIS MIND IS IN THAT STATE...
WH—
WHAT? WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT...?!
TSUBAKI.
YES?
DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW...

WHAT KIND OF SWIM-SUIT
I BOUGHT
TODAY?
HUH ...?
W—
WELL,
OF COURSE I DO...
SSH
SWI
カラカラカラ...
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN

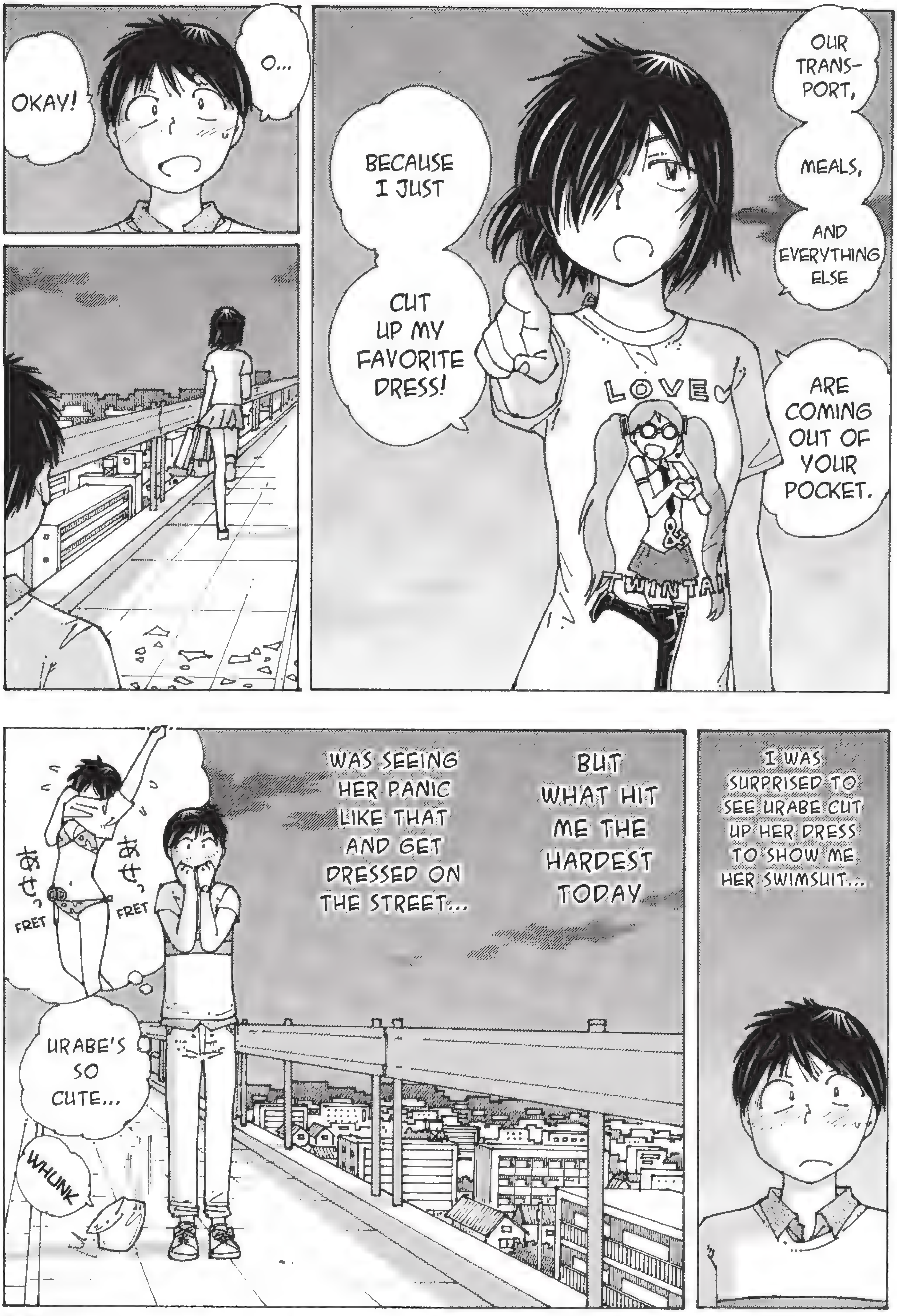
ジャキジャキジャキジャキ‥
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP

ばらり…
FLUTTER…
カラカラカラ…
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN

ちゅっ
SHLP
ぽんっ
POP
ちゅ…
SHLP...

ZHAA
GOOD.
SHINK
スチャ
FRET
あせっ
FRET
あせっ

あせっ FRET
あせっ FRET
Miku♥
あせっ FRET
LOVE♥
あせっ FRET
FRET あせっ
あせっ FRET
Miku♥
あせっ FRET
あせっ FRET
ZZIP
TSUBAKI,
I DON'T MIND
GOING TO
THE BEACH WITH YOU.
BUT IN EXCHANGE...
LOVE


OUR TRANSPORT,
MEALS,
AND EVERYTHING ELSE
ARE COMING OUT OF YOUR POCKET.
BECAUSE I JUST
CUT UP MY FAVORITE DRESS!
LOVE
TWINTAI
O...
OKAY!
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE URABE CUT UP HER DRESS TO SHOW ME HER SWIMSUIT...
BUT WHAT HIT ME THE HARDEST TODAY
WAS SEEING HER PANIC LIKE THAT AND GET DRESSED ON THE STREET...
あせっ FRET
あせっ FRET
URABE'S SO CUTE...
WHUNK

END OF CHAPTER 90

BAD CAT
鯰
CATFISH
CAT
LOVE
TWINTAIL
GHOST
TECHNO
福
SAN-POKO-JIN
KIMYO MUDRA
DANCE
DANCE
GULP

CHAPTER 91: MYSTERIOUS SUNSET (PART 1)

TSUBAKI.
FEST
TWINTAIL
JUNK
TBS
RADIO
INARI
DANCE
COOL JAPAN
AKIHABARA
SECRET BASE
GAMES
CAT FISH
WITH A ROCK
Hallucigenia
PAGODA

KISS ME...
FU
JI
BANANA MOON
GOLD
MYOKEN
UNLOCK
OK
鯰
CATFISH
SN
AP

THE DREAM ABOUT THAT WEIRD CITY...
I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN A LONG TIME...
MATH
TSUBAKI.
KISS ME...
YEAH, I'D LIKE TO, IF ONLY I COULD!!
ギュッ!
SQUEEZE!
HM?
I GUESS YOUKO
ISN'T BACK HOME YET.

SHE MUST REALLY BE LIVING IT UP
WITH HER OLD FRIENDS FROM HIGH SCHOOL...
ガチャ
KLANK
CHEEEEEEEEEEEERS!!
REALLY,
YOUKO,
IT'S BEEN AGES, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
IT'S TRUE!
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOU DID IN SCHOOL!
LIARS!

SO...
HAVE YOU FOUND A BOY-FRIEND?!
THUNK
I HAVEN'T!
THUNK
ME, NEITHER!!
THUNK
WHAT?
WHY NOT?
AREN'T YOU AND MIZUKI AROUND LOTS OF GUYS ALL THE TIME,
AT WORK?
I JUST DO HOUSE-WORK...
AAH,
NO CHANCE!
THEY'RE ALL SO GROSS!
IT'S EASIER BEING SINGLE!
OH,
BUT
A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OUR CLASS
ARE MAR-RIED NOW.
OH,
THAT'S RIGHT!
I HEARD THAT
ARIMA IS GETTING MARRIED!
AH...!

AH,
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
BESIDES,
I ALREADY KNEW THAT ARIMA
IS GETTING MARRIED.
HUH?
YOUKO,
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
THIS PAST FEBRUARY,
I BUMPED INTO ARIMA
IN THE TOWN NEAR WHERE I LIVE.
HE TOLD ME THEN.
WAS IT A SHOCK?
WELL...
SURE,
I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED, BUT...
AFTER THAT,
I TOOK A BATH WITH A REALLY CUTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL,
AND I GOT OVER IT!
WHAT THE HECK
DOES THAT MEAN?

BUT,
THOSE DAYS
WERE A LOT OF FUN.
I THINK,
SINCE BECOMING AN ADULT,
I HAVEN'T SEEN A SUNSET
AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE ONES
I SAW BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
YEAH,
YOU WALKED HOME
WITH ARIMA ALL THE TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

ゴクゴク…
GULP
GULP…
BUT
WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT
IS WHAT WE DO FROM NOW ON!
WHUNK
WE'VE GOTTA SHAKE OFF THOSE BITTERSWEET LOVES OF THE PAST,
AND DO OUR BEST
TO FIND NEW LOVE!
REALISTIC, GROWN-UP LOVE!
HEY!
THREE MORE
DRAFT BEERS, PLEASE!
SURE!
EN-CHAN ALSO
BROKE UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION.
HE FOUND ANOTHER GIRL.
YOUKO!
LET'S DRINK THE NIGHT AWAY!
HERE!
3 DRAFTS!
THUNK
WHAAT?
I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO TOMORROW…
SO I SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH…
STUFF TO DO?
AH,
YEAH.
SOMEPLACE I GO EVERY YEAR…

WELL THEN,
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER
IN YEARS, YOU KNOW!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
GRIPP
AND DOES THIS HAPPEN
EARLY IN THE MORNING ?
WELL, NO...
NOT ALL THAT EARLY...
LET'S TOAST
THE BEAUTIFUL LOVE
THAT IS SURE TO COME OUR WAY!
CHEERS !!

VRRR...
SKREE
TMP
ドタドタドタ
TMP
TMP
KLATCH
I'M HOME!
WHEW!
I HAVEN'T HAD THAT MUCH TO DRINK IN AGES.

YOU WANT
SOME WATER?
SWUMP
ドサッ
OH!
PLEASE!
TMP
ドタ
TMP
ドタ
OH,
C'MON...
SHE FELL ASLEEP IN THE ENTRYWAY...
IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP, SLEEP IN YOUR FUTON.
OR,
MAYBE NOT...
DROOOOP
ズルズル
AND
UP...
グッ
LIFT

HUH?
WAS SHE ALWAYS THIS LIGHT...?
OR MAYBE
I'VE JUST GOTTEN BIGGER
AND GAINED MORE STRENGTH...
ガラッ!
SLIDE
I'LL LEAVE
THE WATER HERE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.

...HUH?
SEEING MY SISTER'S FACE WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP ...
IT'S KINDA...

WHAT...?
TEARS ...?
HUH?
WHY?

MAN,
THE SUN IS BRUTAL...
IT'S USUALLY EVENING WHEN WE GO HOME,
BUT WHEN CLASSES END DURING THE MORNING,
THE WALK HOME IS WAY TOO HOT...

HERE,
TSUBAKI.
OUR ROUTINE.
OH.
OKAY.
ちゅ
SHLP
WHEN I SAW YOUKO
ASLEEP LAST NIGHT,
WHY DID I START CRYING...?
...BUT STILL,

TSUBAKI.
HMM...
TSUBAKI!
ポン
POP
ポン
POK
POP
ポン
SHLP

URABE...
YOU'RE CRYING...
...I SAW IT.

TSUBAKI,
WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE PLANS
THIS AFTERNOON?
HUH?
UENO
NAKAJIMA
I PROMISED I'D HANG OUT WITH UENO AND NAKAJIMA...
HUH?
IF I CAN GO WITH YOU,
THAT TAKES PRIORITY...
OH,
NO...
NEVER MIND, IT'S NOTHING.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
OH...
THEN,
I'LL HAVE TO GO BY MYSELF.
SEE YOU TOMORROW,
TSUBAKI.
OH...
OKAY...
SKY FISH

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
FLOWER SHOP FLOWER DREAMS
Black
FASHION CENTER REMMURA
UDAGAWA FREE COASTERS
SKREE
キイイッ
YAMADA SEMINARS

UDAGAWA FREE
COASTERS

Tsubaki Family Grave
椿家之墓

OW OW...
I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT...
HUH?

END OF CHAPTER 91

FINAL CHAPTER: MYSTERIOUS SUNSET (PART 2)

URABE...
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

TS...
TSUBAKI'S SISTER ...
H—
HELLO!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
パキンッ
SNICK
THIS IS...
OUR MOTHER'S GRAVE...
URABE,
YOU KNEW IT WAS HERE?
AH,
YES.
TSUBAKI BROUGHT ME HERE ONCE.
THEN,
YOU KNEW
THAT TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH, TOO?

WHA...
UH...
OH!
YES!
TSUBAKI TOLD ME...
HE COULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU.
AKIRA DOESN'T
KNOW THE DATE OF OUR MOTHER'S DEATH.
URABE,
WHAT REALLY
BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?
UHH...
WELL...
YOU PROBABLY WON'T
BELIEVE ME, BUT...

WHEN I'M
WITH TSUBAKI,
I CAN SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
TODAY,
ON OUR WAY
HOME FROM SCHOOL,
I SAW SOMETHING.
IT LOOKED LIKE A HOSPITAL ROOM.
THERE WAS A WOMAN IN THE BED,
AND BESIDE HER
STOOD A LITTLE BOY.
HE WAS CRYING.
I'M CERTAIN
THAT BOY
WAS TSUBAKI WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

THE WOMAN
LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ASLEEP,
BUT I KNEW
THAT WAS THE MOMENT WHEN
TSUBAKI'S MOM PASSED AWAY.
THAT'S WHY
I CAME HERE TODAY.
椿家之墓
Tsubaki Family Grave
SO...
I ACTUALLY HAD NO IDEA
THAT TODAY WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH.
THAT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE...
...
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU KNOW, YOU...
UHM...

LOOK A LOT LIKE
YOUR LATE MOTHER.
NO CAT NO LIFE
LOOK.
HUH?
AH...

LOOKS JUST LIKE ME, RIGHT?
IT DOES ...
THIS IS OUR MOTHER.
I LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE HER EVERY YEAR...
THIS IS
THE ONLY PHOTO
WE HAVE OF HER
IN OUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD.
WHAT?
RIGHT AFTER MOM DIED,
AKIRA
WOULD CRY EVERY TIME
HE SAW PICTURES OF HER.
SO WE KEPT JUST ONE
AND GOT RID OF THE REST.
WELL,
OUR DAD PROBABLY KEPT A FEW OTHERS IN SECRET, BUT...

WE HAVEN'T SHOWN HIM HER PICTURES
EVER SINCE THEN,
SO AKIRA
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT OUR MOM LOOKED LIKE.
WE VISIT HER GRAVE DURING THE O-BON AND O-HIGAN HOLIDAYS,
BUT I'M SURE
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER THE DATE OF HER DEATH.
椿家之墓
I'VE ALWAYS
COME HERE ALONE,
EVERY YEAR,
WITHOUT TELLING HIM...
SO WHEN YOU SAY
THAT WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM,
YOU CAN SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
I BELIEVE YOU.
AFTER ALL,
HERE YOU ARE...

EVEN IF IT'S A FLUKE,
YOU'RE REALLY HERE
AT OUR MOM'S GRAVE,
ON THE DATE
OF HER DEATH.
椿家之墓
I'M SURE YOU AND AKIRA
MUST HAVE
SOME KIND OF SPECIAL BOND.
...A BOND...
WHEN I WAS
ABOUT YOUR AGE...
THERE WAS A BOY I THOUGHT I HAD SUCH A BOND WITH.
I THOUGHT THAT
EVEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL,
WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER,
FOREVER AND EVER...

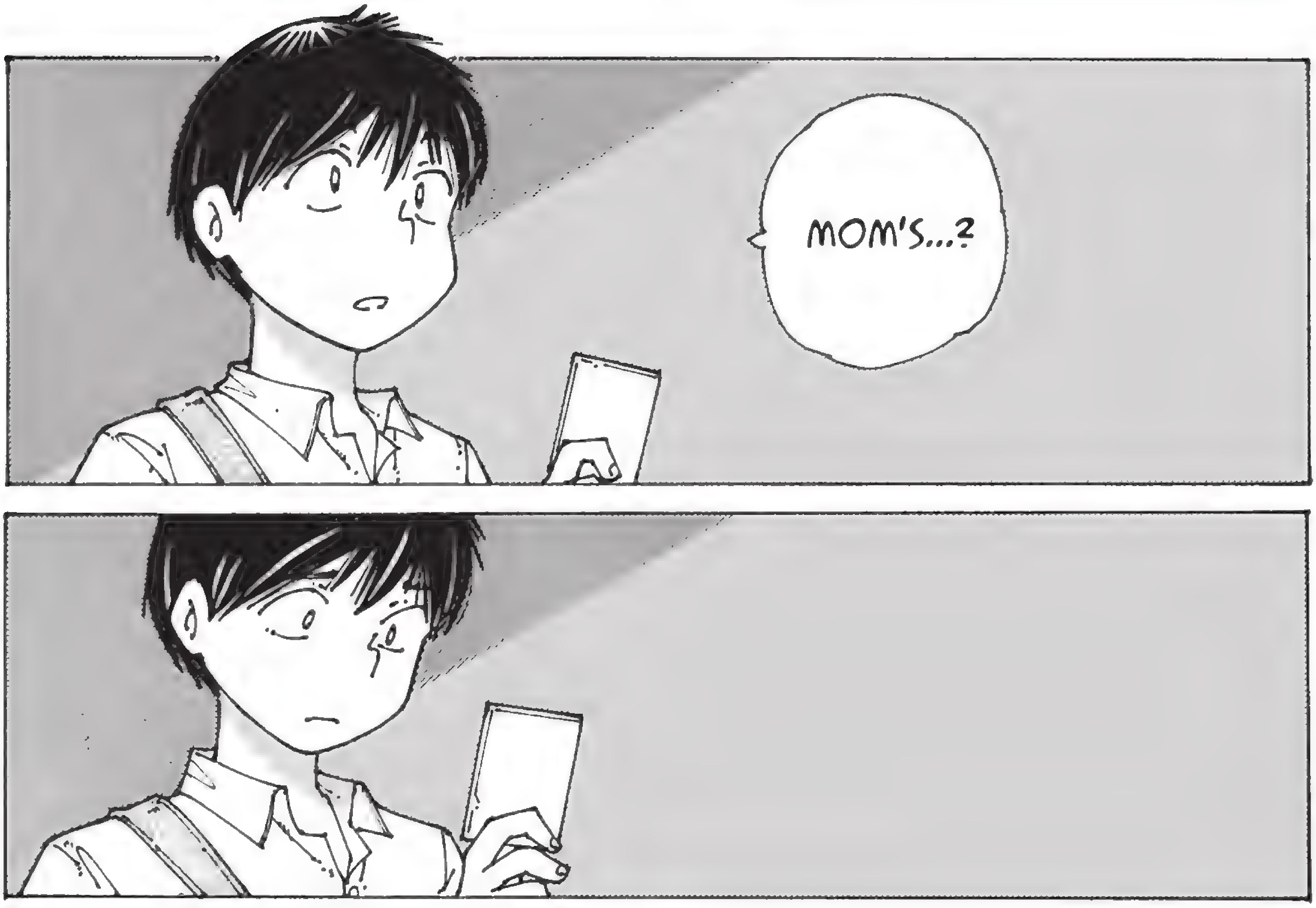
BUT,
I WAS WRONG...
OH!
I'M SORRY.
JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PAST...
WOULD YOU GIVE HER THE FLOWERS?
I'M SURE MOM IS HAPPY
TO MEET AKIRA'S GIRLFRIEND.
原口家之墓
椿家之墓

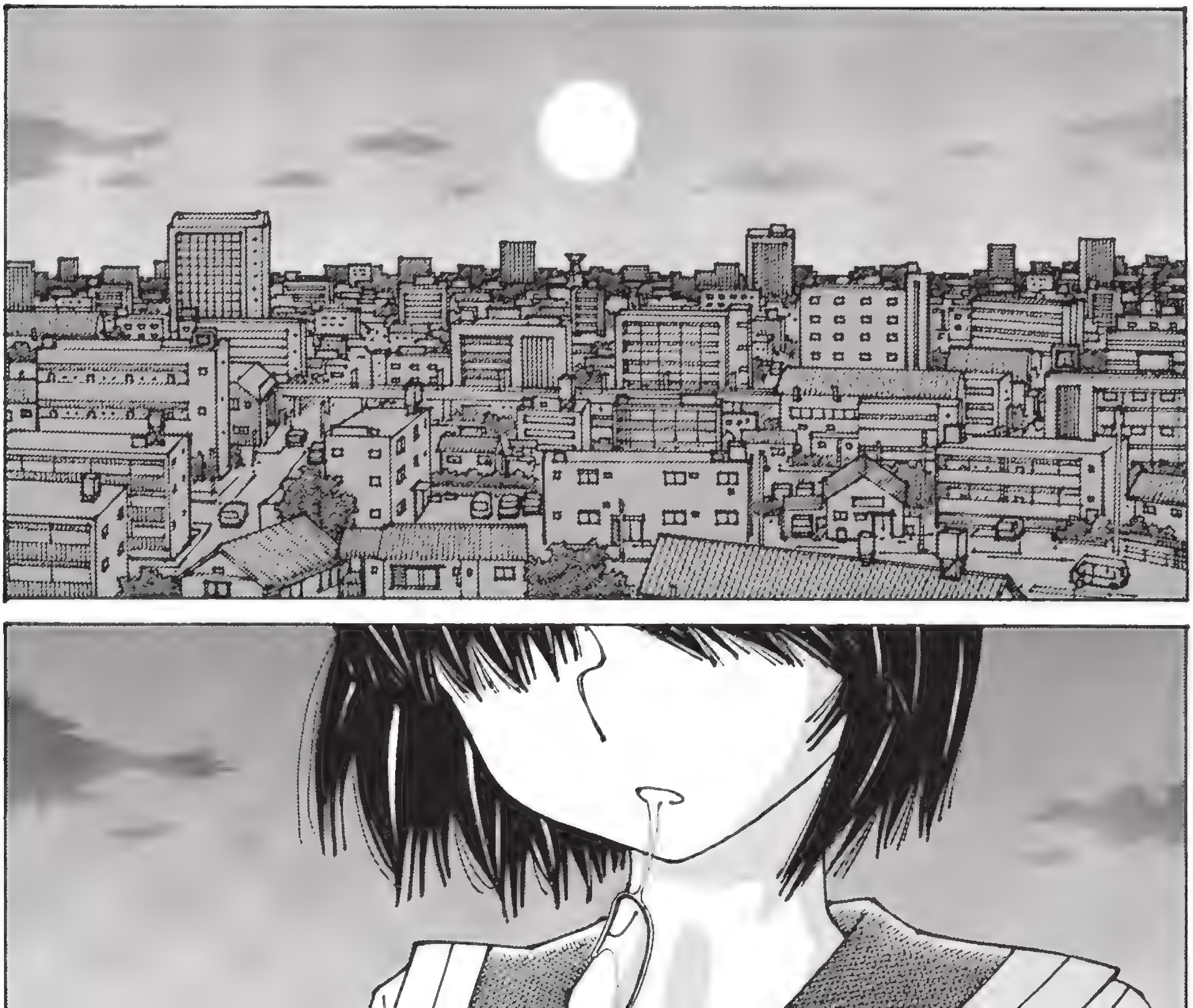
UHM...
YOUKO...
THIS IS
WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING.
I...

I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME,
AKIRA.
DINNER IS
ALMOST READY.
I'M HOME,
YOUKO.

OH,
OKAY.
AH!
WAIT A SECOND.
HERE.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
INSIDE
THAT ENVELOPE
IS A PICTURE OF MOM.
NO CAT
NO LIFE

WHAT?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WHEN
YOU GREW UP AND AN OPPORTUNITY CAME,
I'D GIVE IT TO YOU.
NO CAT NO LIFE
WELL, THAT OPPORTUNITY
HAPPENED TODAY.
SO,
I DECIDED
TODAY WAS THE DAY TO GIVE IT TO YOU.


MOM'S...?



HERE,
TSUBAKI.
OUR ROUTINE.
AH, URABE...
WAIT... BEFORE WE DO THAT,
CAN I BORROW YOUR SCISSORS?
MY SCISSORS...?
HERE.
AH, THANKS.

AH!
I DIDN'T ASK TO BORROW THESE JUST SO
I COULD SEE YOUR PANTIES OR ANYTHING!
WAIT!!
WHAT'S IN
THAT ENVELOPE?

WHAT?!
WHY...
WOULD YOU WANT TO CUT UP SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT?!
MY SISTER GAVE IT TO ME YESTERDAY.
A PICTURE OF MY MOM.
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT MY MOM LOOKED LIKE,
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I STILL KNOW.
'CAUSE, TWO NIGHTS AGO,
WHEN I SAW MY SISTER SLEEPING,
FOR SOME REASON TEARS CAME TO MY EYES...

I WONDERED WHY AT THE TIME,
BUT
I'M PRETTY SURE
MY MOM LOOKED
LIKE MY SISTER DOES NOW.
SO I THINK THAT HAPPENED
BECAUSE I SAW A LITTLE OF MY MOM
IN MY SISTER'S FACE WHILE SHE SLEPT.
I CAN'T REMEMBER HER FACE,
BUT I'M SURE
THE MEMORY IS STILL
SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE ME.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT,
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED
TO LOOK AT A PICTURE AND FIND OUT WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.

I THOUGHT IT'D BE EASIER TO MOVE FORWARD
IF I JUST
CUT THE PICTURE TO PIECES...
TSUBAKI ...
STILL,
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
SWPP
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CUT IT UP,
THEN I'LL
KEEP IT FOR YOU.

I THINK THERE WILL COME A DAY
WHEN YOU DECIDE THAT
YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MOM'S FACE.
SO UNTIL THEN,
I'LL KEEP
THIS PICTURE FOR YOU.
...
ARE YOU SURE?
ALSO,
TSUBAKI...
YOU SAID
THAT YOU WANT
TO MOVE FORWARD,
RIGHT?
NOD
IN THAT CASE,
RIGHT HERE
AND NOW...

...KISS ME.
WHAT?!
I'M HOLDING ON TO SOMETHING
THAT'S VERY PRECIOUS TO YOU.
SO NOW I
WANT TO MOVE FORWARD, TOO...

ARE...
ARE YOU SURE?!
YES.
I WANT
TO DO THIS.
GULP

IF...
IF WE ACTUALLY KISS...
I WONDER IF ANYTHING WILL CHANGE...
WE WON'T CONTINUE
OUR USUAL ROUTINE ANY LONGER.
WHAT?!
AFTER ALL,
KISSING IS SWAPPING DROOL FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH.
WE'LL KISS BEFORE PARTING WAYS EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON,
SO WE WON'T HAVE TO PUT OUR FINGERS IN EACH OTHER'S MOUTHS TO DO IT ANYMORE.

GULP
ONCE WE'VE KISSED,
I WONDER IF
THAT SUNSET WILL LOOK DIFFERENT ...
SWOOP

ピダ
FREEZE
URABE.
LISTEN.
WHY DON'T WE
STOP HERE FOR TODAY...?

IF NOT TODAY,
THEN WHEN?
OF COURSE,
I REALLY WANT TO...
BUT...
HOW TO PUT IT...
WHILE YOU AND I
ARE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL,
STILL WEARING THESE UNIFORMS...
I THINK IT'S OKAY
TO JUST STAY AS WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
KISSING WOULD BE GREAT...
BUT LOSING OUR DAILY ROUTINE
WOULD BE
REALLY SAD, I THINK...

しすっ
HEH
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YEAH.
I THINK SO, TOO.
HERE.
OUR ROUTINE.

ちゅ‥
SHLP...
LISTEN, TSUBAKI ...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU...
I—
AH!
URABE...

YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING...
HUH?
AH...
SHOOT...
I GUESS I'M TOO WORKED UP
TO TELL YOU IN PERSON.
NOT AS LONG AS WE'RE WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORMS.
WHAT?!
FINISH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING!
NOW I'M CURIOUS!
SFF
IT'S...

A
SE
CRET
!
SECRET ♪
UH...
DASH
WA—
WAIT !!
URABE !!
UHM...
YOUKO...
Tsubaki Family Grave
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING.
I...

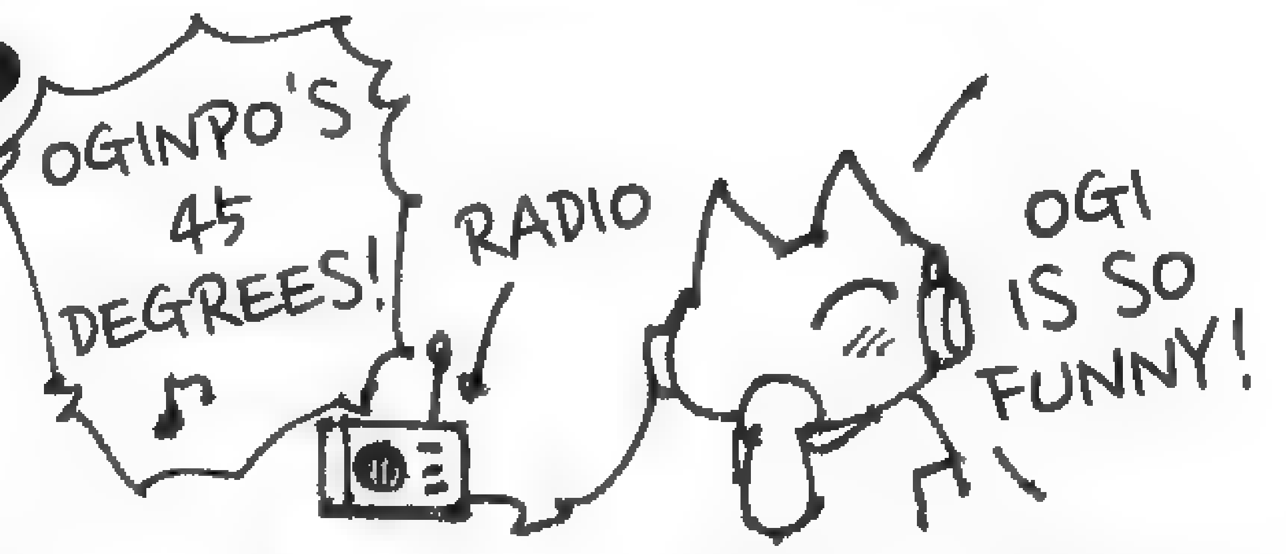
WANT TO BE
WITH TSUBAKI
FOREVER AND EVER.
椿家之墓
THAT'S HOW I FEEL.

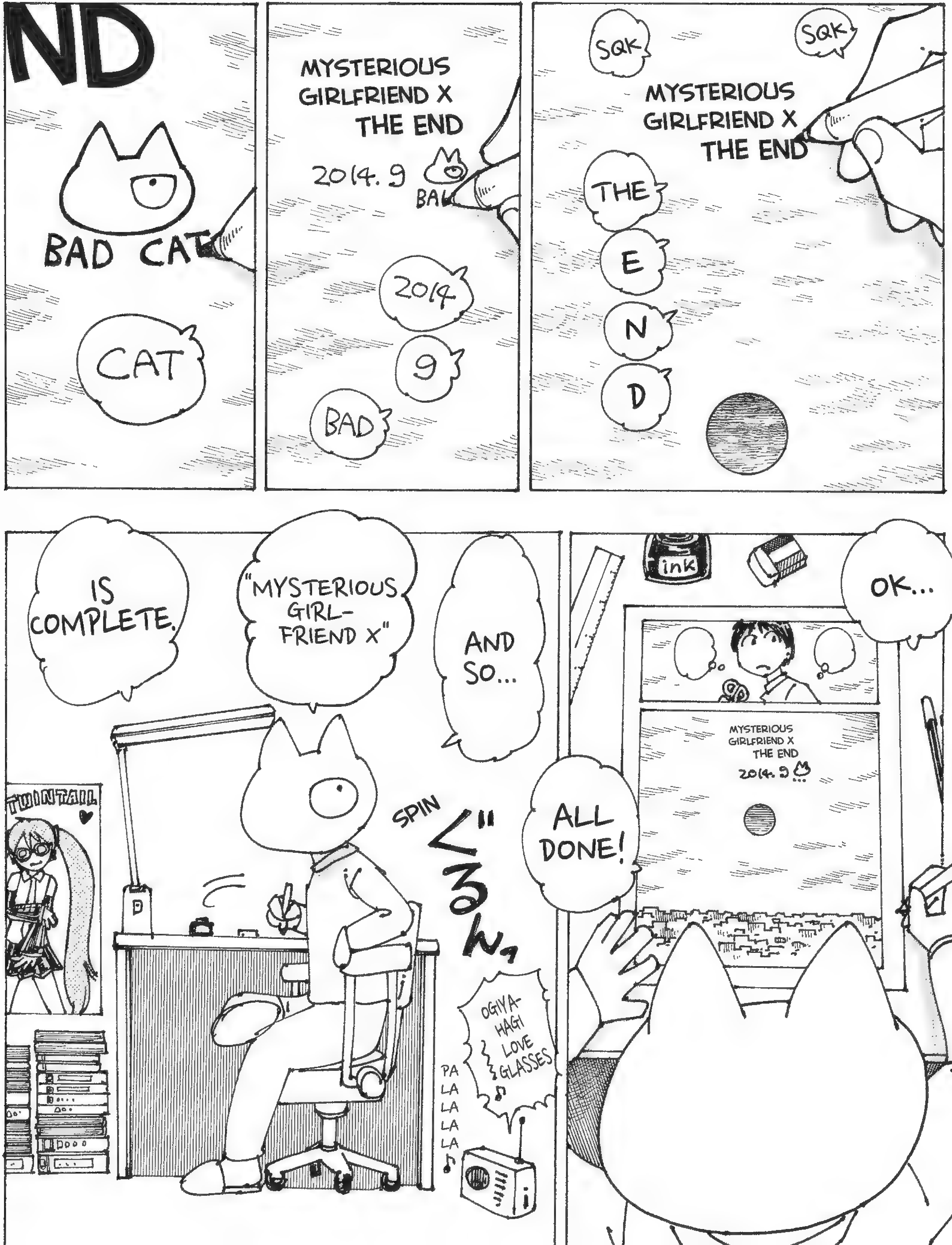
THE SUNSET
SURE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL...
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X THE END
2014.9
BAD CAT
THE END

THANK YOU ♥

MY 10 YEARS WORKING ON "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X"

WRITTEN BY
RIICHI UESHIBA


OGINPO'S 45 DEGREES!
RADIO
OGI IS SO FUNNY!


SQK
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MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X THE END
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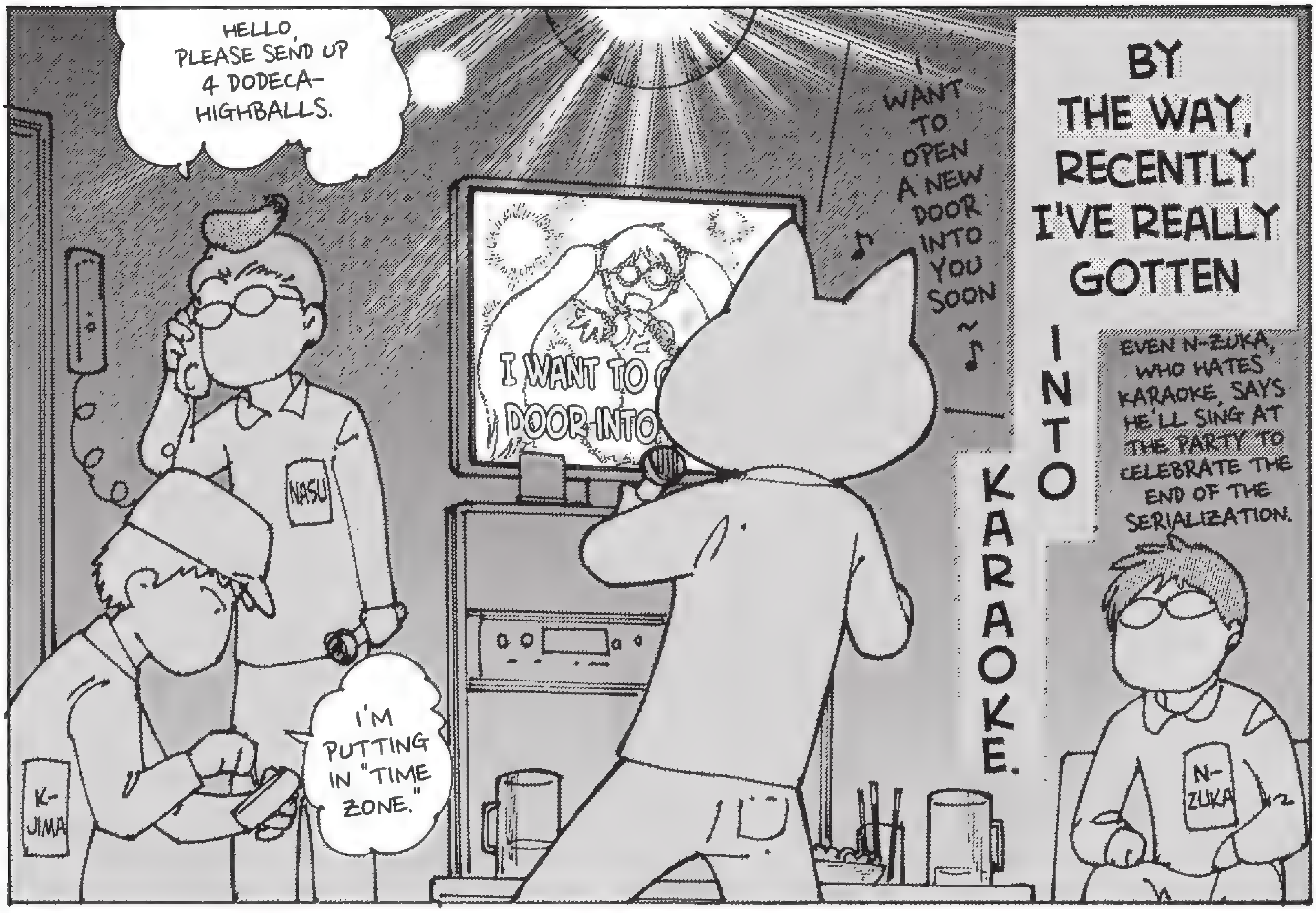
2014
9
BAD
ND
BAD CAT
CAT
OK...
ink
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X THE END 2014. 9
ALL DONE!
AND SO...
"MYSTERIOUS GIRL-FRIEND X"
IS COMPLETE.
SPIN
ぐるんっ
OGIYAHAGI LOVE GLASSES
PA LA LA LA LA
TWINTAIL

IT STARTED AS A ONE-SHOT THAT RAN IN AFTERNOON BACK IN 2004, SO THE LAST
10 YEARS
IT'S NOW 2014
BANANA-MAN'S BANANA MOON GOLD~
PA LA LA LA LA
I HAVE SPENT WITH THESE TWO CHARACTERS.
DURING THE DECADE I DREW THEM, THEIR DESIGNS HAVE CHANGED.
12 (ORIGINAL) VOLUMES
TSUBAKI...
IT SAID THAT
YOU WOULD BE
THE FIRST GUY I WILL HAVE SEX WITH...
...IS HOW THE ONE-SHOT MANGA BEGAN, BUT...
AFTER ALL THAT,
LISTEN.
WHY DON'T WE
STOP HERE FOR TODAY...?
THE SERIES ENDED WITHOUT THEM KISSING, LET ALONE HAVING SEX.

I MAY HAVE INTENDED FOR THEM TO GO ALL THE WAY WHEN THE MANGA BEGAN SERIALIZATION,
BUT THEN I THOUGHT, "MAYBE ONE'S ADOLESCENCE SEEMS SO DAZZLING BECAUSE NOTHING HAPPENED,
BECAUSE THOSE DAYS WERE BORING..."
TO REASSURE MYSELF...
I THOUGHT BACK TO MY OWN DAYS AS A TEEN
MY "DAILY ROUTINE" WAS TO BUY UMAIBO CORN SNACKS AT THE STORE AFTER SCHOOL.
FUKUOKA-ITES JUST LOVE THE COD-FLAVORED VERSION!
BOOKS
COPIES: 10 ¥
I HAD A CHANGE OF HEART DURING THE 10 YEARS I SPENT WORKING ON THIS MANGA.
AND SO THE SERIES ENDED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A KISS.
URABE... CAN I?
OH...
TSUBAKI... ♥
I CAN'T WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
TOO EMBARRASSING...
WELL, I THINK JUST BY HAVING A GIRLFRIEND, YOU COULD SAY HIS HIGH SCHOOL YEARS WERE PLENTY FULFILLING...
I DIDN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND WHEN I WAS THAT AGE...
BUT APPARENTLY MY EDITOR HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
BUT IF I HADN'T GIVEN HER MARSHMALLOWS FOR WHITE DAY, WE WOULD'VE FALLEN APART.
BY THE WAY, A FEW DAYS AFTER THE SERIALIZATION ENDED,
THERE WAS A PHOTO SHOOT THAT AIMED TO CAPTURE "ARTISTS AT WORK" AT KODANSHA.
KODANSHA
GOKOKU-JI TEMPLE

THEY PHOTOGRAPHED ME DRAWING URABE, AND IT WAS THEN POSTED ON THE INTERNET...
RLFRIEND X
THEN AFTER THE PHOTO SHOOT, I GAVE AN END-OF-SERIALIZATION INTERVIEW.
I SAID THINGS LIKE, "A GIRL'S DROOL", AND "IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SHE WASN'T WEARING PANTIES..."
DROOL!
WASN'T WEARING PANTIES!
THEY NEVER HAD SEX...
AND "IT STARTED WITH SEX AS A TOPIC, BUT IN THE END THEY NEVER EVEN KISSED."
I ALSO TALKED A LOT ABOUT OGIYAHAGI AND BANANAMAN...

BY THE WAY, THE PHOTOGRAPHERS THAT TIME WERE TWO YOUNG WOMEN,
AND WHEN I FOUND MYSELF HAPPILY CHATTING ABOUT "DROOL", "PANTIES" AND "SEX" IN FRONT OF TWO LADIES I'D NEVER MET BEFORE,
I REALIZED THAT, OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING, IT ALL SOUNDED PRETTY DAMN STUPID,
AND THAT I HAD SPENT 10 YEARS WRITING SUCH A STUPID MANGA
IN A GOOD WAY
AND, WELL ...
I FELT VAGUELY CERTAIN THAT MY NEXT MANGA WOULD PROBABLY BE SOMETHING SIMILARLY STUPID.
IN A GOOD WAY


HELLO, PLEASE SEND UP 4 DODECA-HIGHBALLS.
I WANT TO OPEN A NEW DOOR INTO YOU SOON ~ ♪
I WANT TO O
DOOR INTO
NASU
K-JIMA
N-ZUKA
I'M PUTTING IN "TIME ZONE."

BY THE WAY, RECENTLY I'VE REALLY GOTTEN INTO KARAOKE.

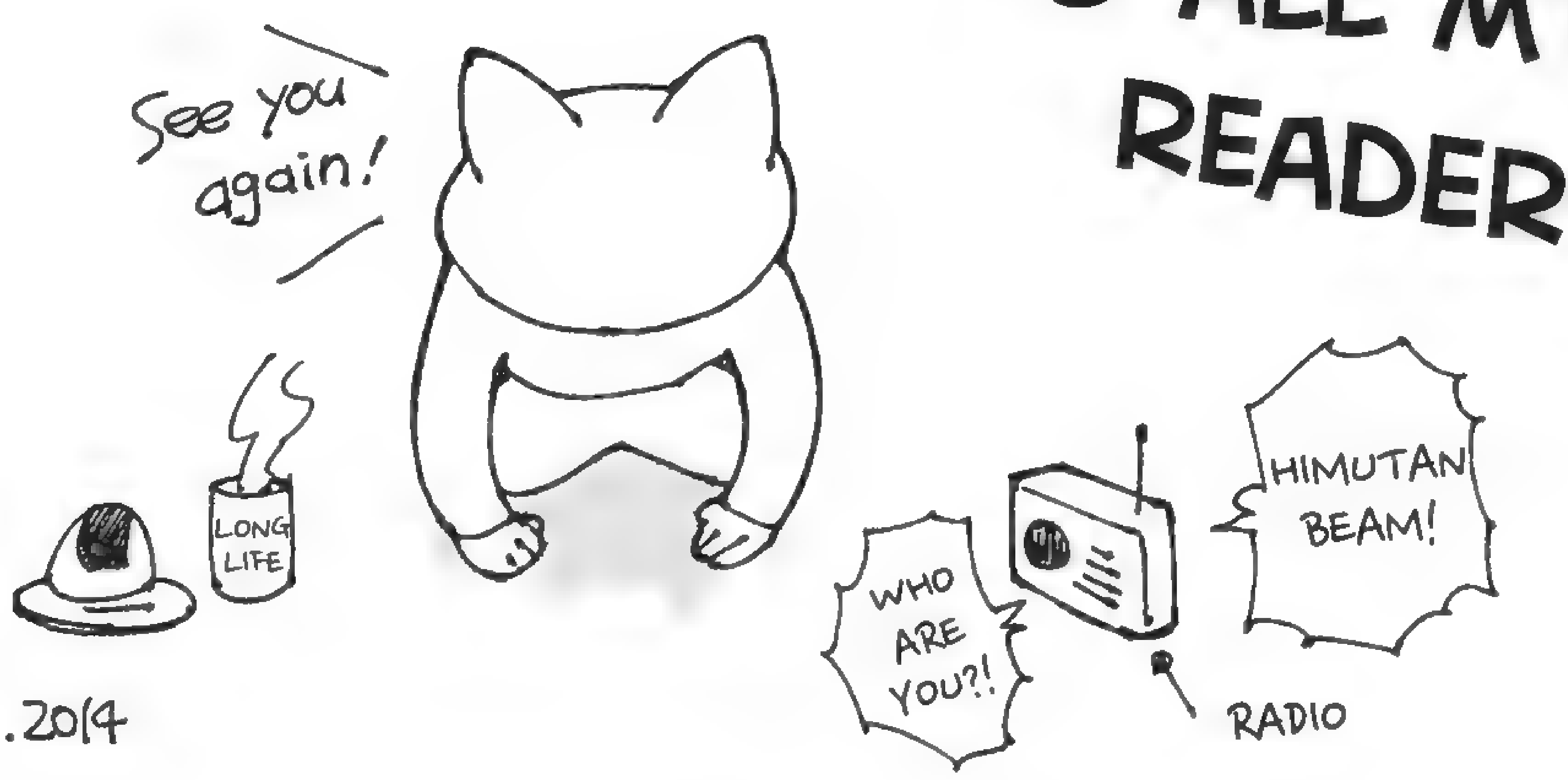
EVEN N-ZUKA, WHO HATES KARAOKE, SAYS HE'LL SING AT THE PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SERIALIZATION.

RECENTLY, I'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT SINGING THE ENDING THEME SONG FROM THE ANIME, "CAPTAIN":

"THANK YOU."

OTHER FAVORITES INCLUDE "POLAR STAR" (JUNKO YAGAMI), "FAREWELL, SIBERIAN RAILROAD" (EIICHI OOTAKI), "LA SALLE DE BAIN" (RINGO SHIINA), ETC.

ON THAT NOTE, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL MY READERS!


See you again!
LONG LIFE
WHO ARE YOU?!
HIMUTAN BEAM!
RADIO

THE END

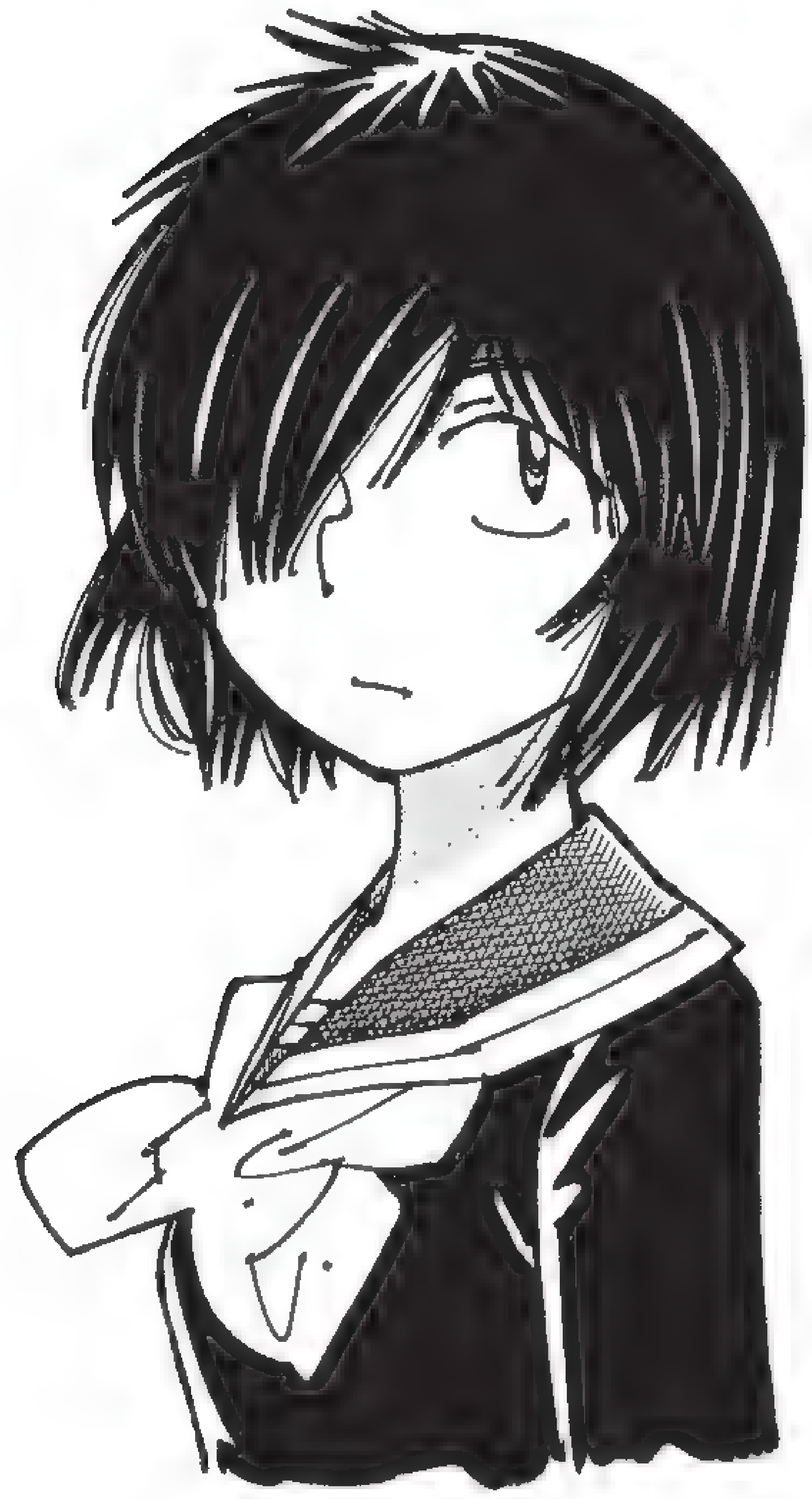
RIICHI UESHIBA

BAD CAT 11.2014

TO END WITH, I THOUGHT I'D SHARE THE ORIGINS OF THE TITLE, NAMES OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS, THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL AND OTHER INSPIRATIONS!

○ "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X"

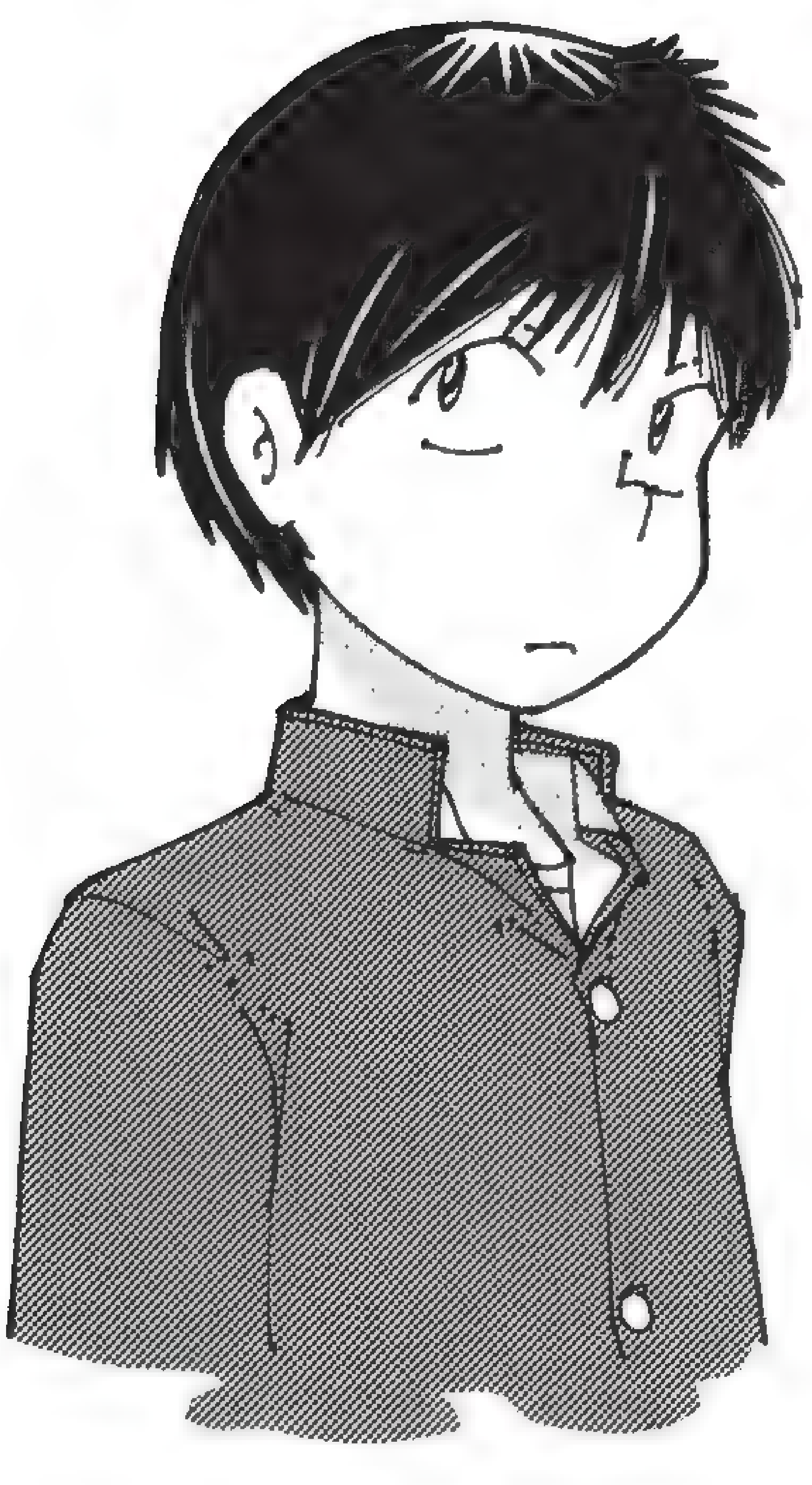
THE BRITISH SCIFI TV SHOW "UFO" (KNOWN IN JAPANESE AS "MYSTERIOUS FLYING SAUCER UFO" INSPIRED THE TITLE "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X." THIS IS ALSO WHY URABE HAS A NUMBER OF UFO-RELATED ACCESSORIES.



○ MIKOTO URABE

IN MARIKO IWADATE'S SHOJO MANGA "TOOI HOSHI WO KAZOETE [COUNT THE DISTANT STARS]" (A PERSONAL FAVORITE), THE BOYFRIEND OF THE PROTAGONIST IS NAMED "URABE," AND THE NICE SOUND OF THE NAME STUCK WITH ME, SO I BORROWED IT FOR MY OWN MANGA.

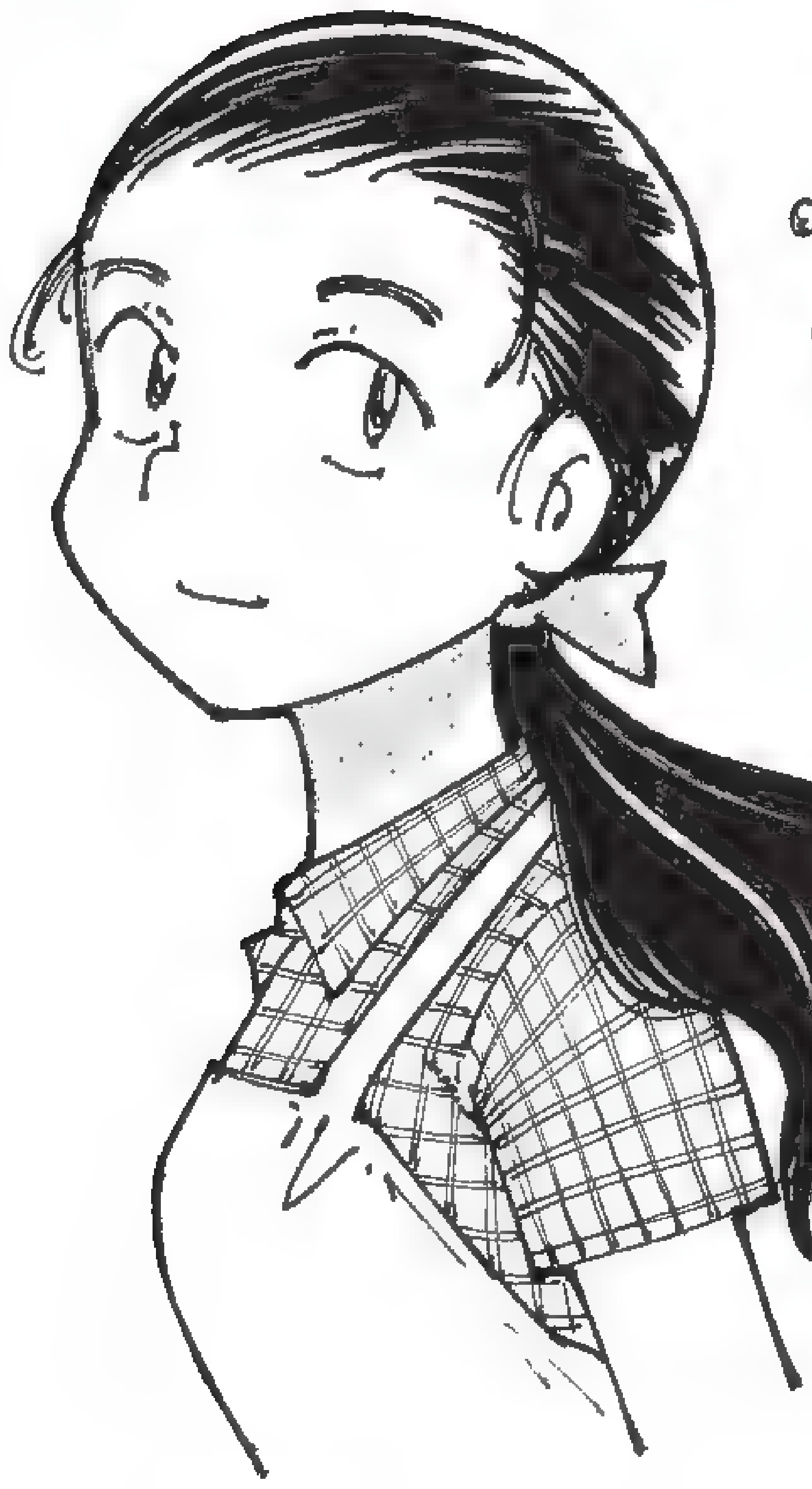
※THE OCCULT MANGA THAT WAS REJECTED BEFORE I STARTED "X" FEATURED THREE SISTERS WITH NAMES THAT ENDED WITH WORDS FROM INSTRUMENTS: "MISUZU" (LITERALLY, "PRETTY BELL"), "MIKOTO" (PRETTY HARP) AND "MIKO" (PRETTY DRUM). I KEPT "MIKOTO" FOR "X."



○ AKIRA TSUBAKI

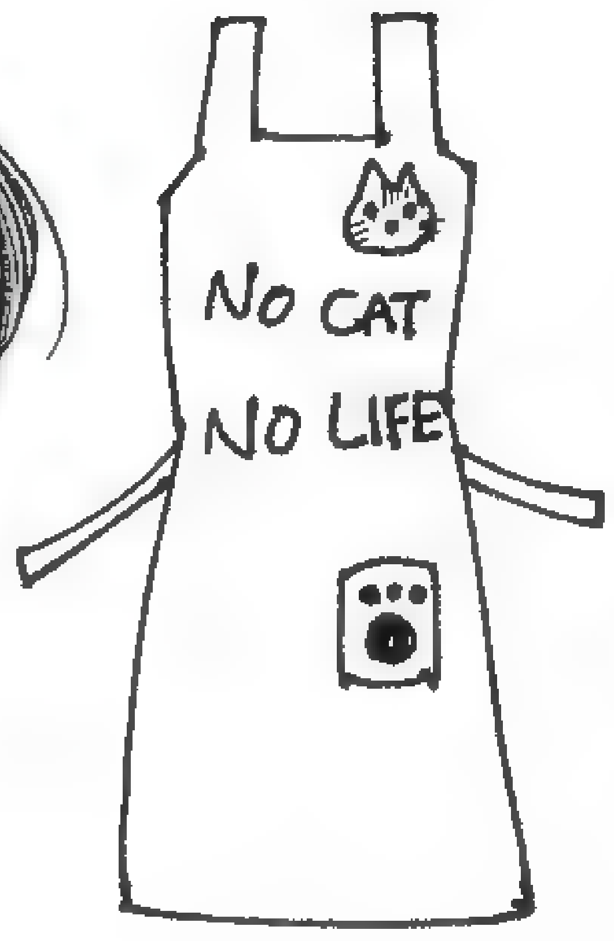
I HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT THE MALE LEAD'S FIRST NAME SHOULD BE "AKIRA," AND WHEN IT CAME TIME TO CHOOSE A LAST NAME, THE FIRST NAME THAT CAME TO MIND WAS AKIRA KUROSAWA. MY FAVORITE KUROSAWA FILM IS "TSUBAKI SANJURO [SANJURO]" SO I DECIDED ON THE NAME "AKIRA TSUBAKI."

SINCE A JAPANESE WORD FOR DROOL IS "TSUBAKI," AND THIS MANGA'S MAIN THEME IS DROOL, I'M SOMETIMES ASKED IF IT WAS INTENTIONAL TO USE A HOMOPHONE FOR THE MALE PROTAGONIST IN "X" ("TSUBAKI" HERE MEANING "CAMELLIA"), BUT I HAD WANTED TO USE THE NAME "AKIRA TSUBAKI" IN THE REJECTED OCCULT MANGA I PROPOSED BEFORE "X" BEGAN, SO IT'S PURELY COINCIDENTAL THAT THE NAME SOUNDS LIKE "DROOL."

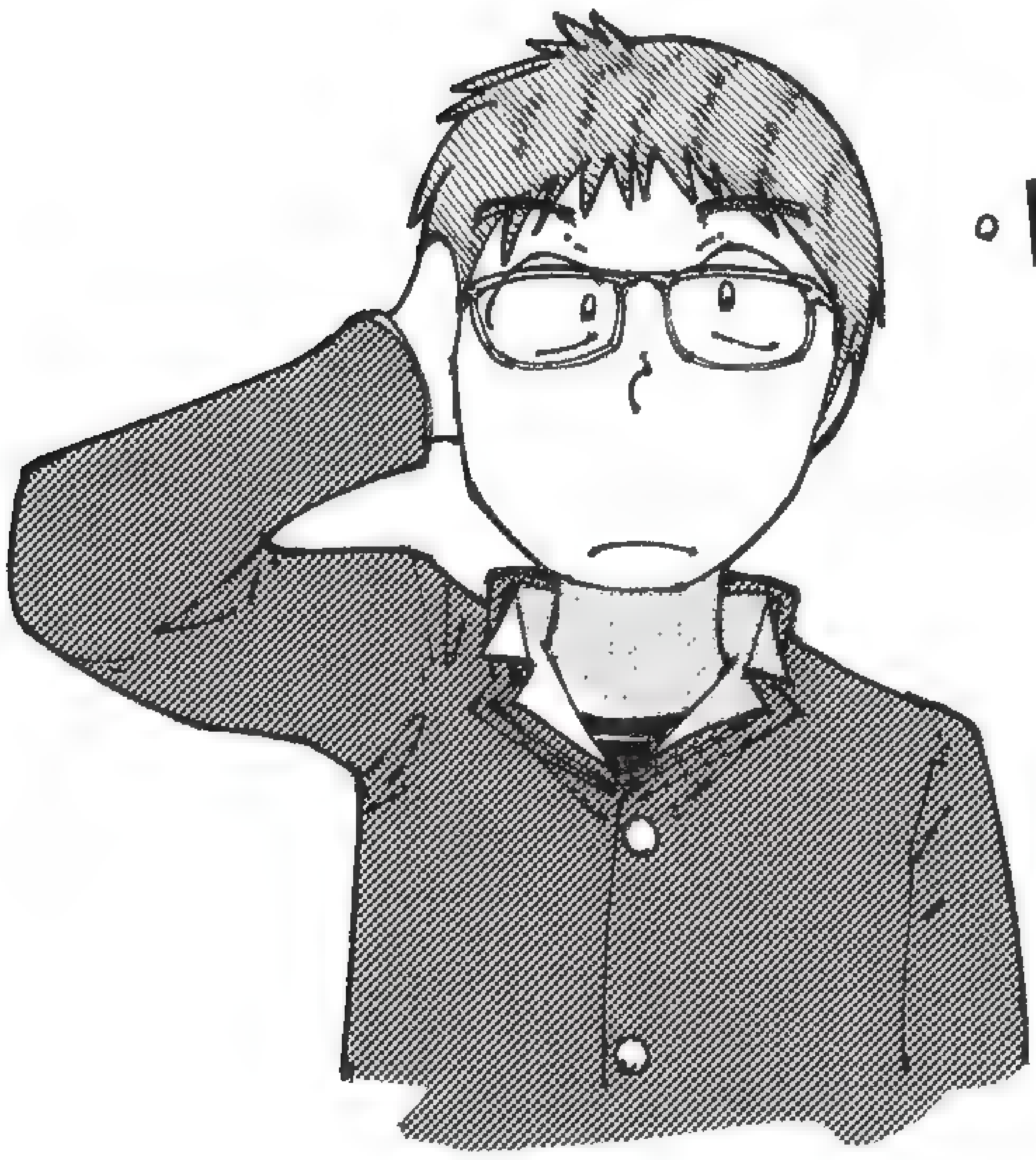


◦YOUKO TSUBAKI

AKIRA KUROSAWA'S WIFE WAS THE ACTRESS YOUKO YAGUCHI, SO I DECIDED TO BORROW HER NAME. SO THESE TWO SIBLINGS' NAMES ARE BASED ON RATHER AWE-INSPIRING PEOPLE.



※ AS SEEN IN THE FINAL CHAPTER, YOUKO'S APRON, WALLET AND OTHER ACCESSORIES HAVE A CAT MOTIF. SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CAT, BUT I HAD WANTED HER TO BE "A CAT-LOVER WHO IS ALLERGIC TO CATS" WHICH I NEVER MANAGED TO EXPLAIN IN THE MANGA BEFORE IT ENDED...

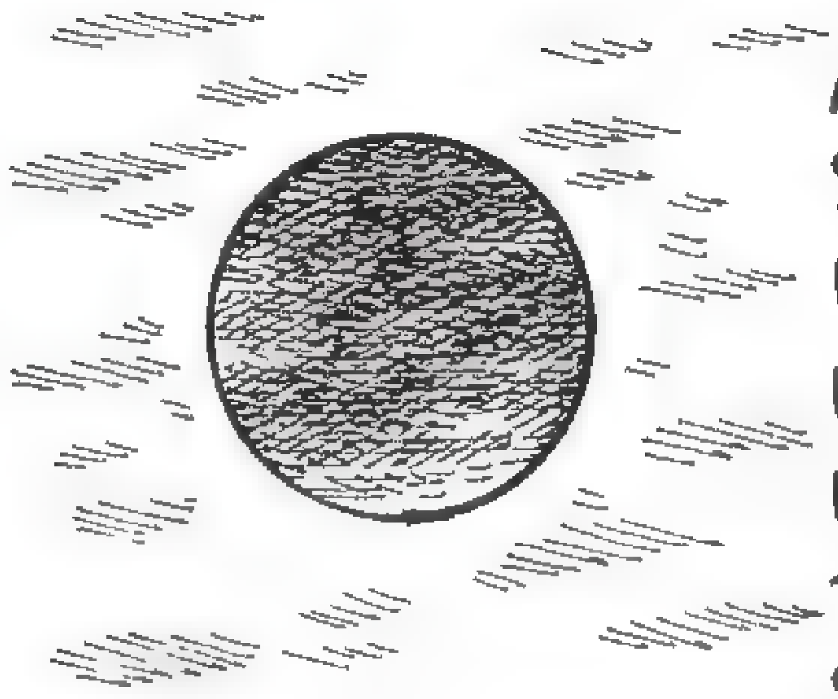


◦KOUHEI UENO

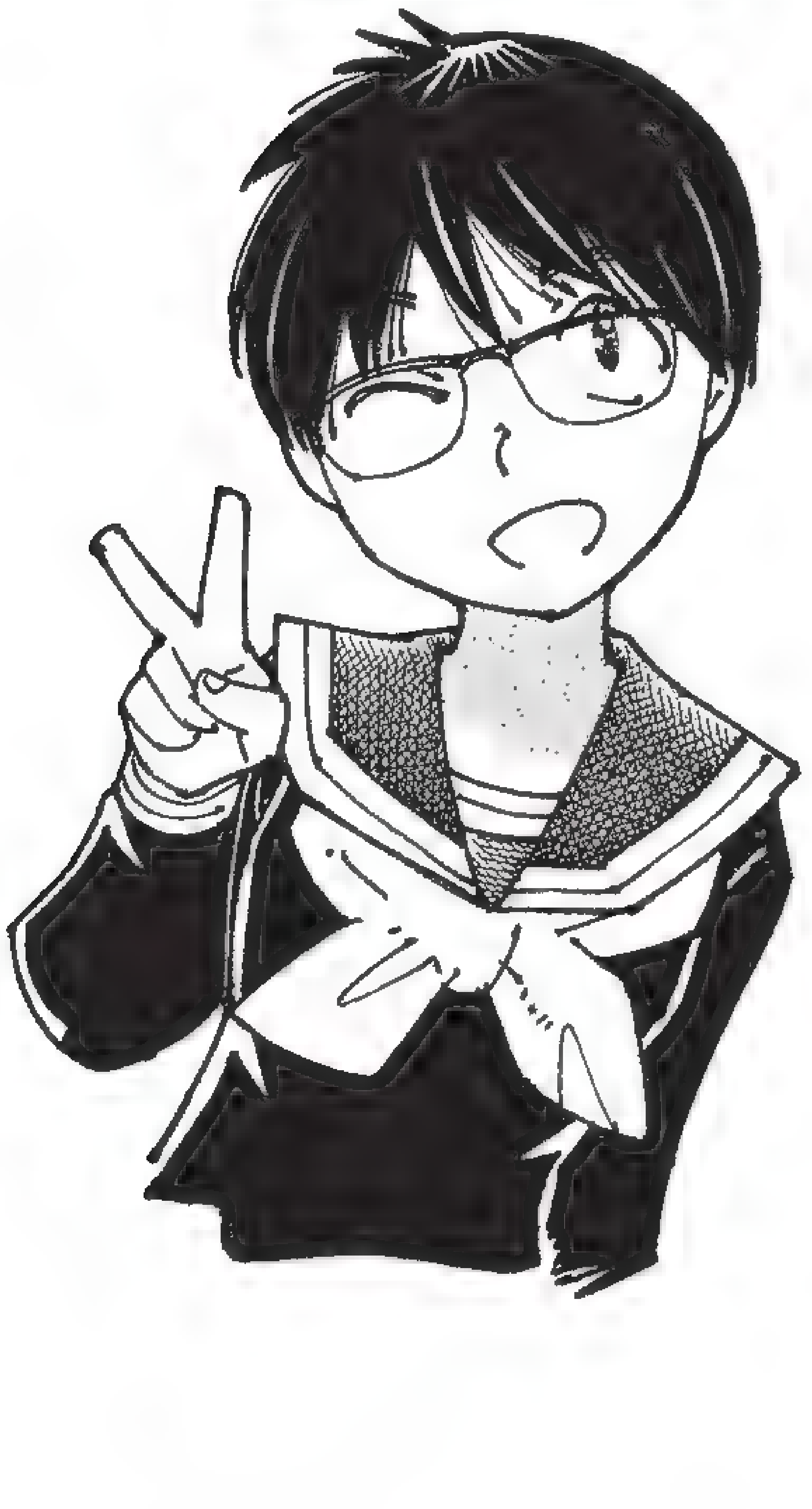
IN THE TV SPECIAL, "THE RETURN OF ULTRAMAN," THERE'S A BRIGHT, FLIPPANT MEMBER OF THE M.A.T. (MONSTER ATTACK TEAM) NAMED "IPPEI UENO," WHICH IS WHERE I GOT UENO FROM.

◦AYUKO OKA

AS WITH UENO, I GOT "OKA" FROM THE SOLE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE M.A.T. IN "THE RETURN OF ULTRAMAN," WHO'S NAMED "YURIKO OKA."



AS IT HAPPENS, THE FINAL BATTLE SCENE IN "THE RETURN OF ULTRAMAN" IS SET AGAINST A SUNSET, WHICH MADE A PRETTY BIG IMPRESSION ON ME, WHICH I FEEL IS THE REASON WHY THERE ARE SO MANY SCENES SET AT SUNSET IN "X."



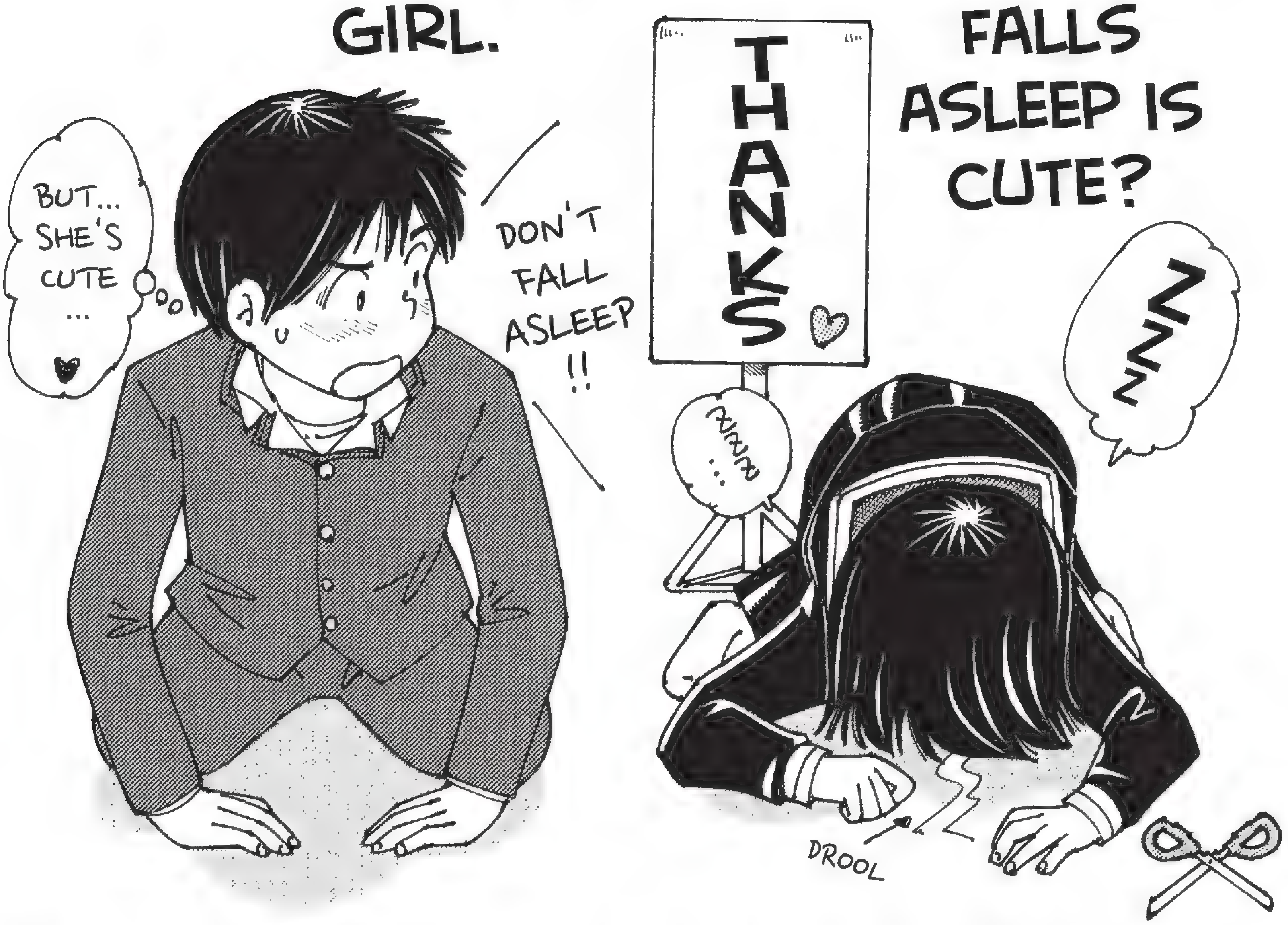
◦KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL

SINCE "X" BEGINS WITH URABE TRANSFERRING TO A NEW HIGH SCHOOL, I THOUGHT OF THE MASTERPIECE OF THE "TRANSFER STUDENT" GENRE, "KAZE NO MATASABUROU [MATASABUROU OF THE WIND]" BY KENJI MIYAZAWA, WHICH INSPIRED ME TO TAKE THE CHARACTER "KAZE [WIND]" AND INCORPORATE IT INTO THE SCHOOL WHERE MOST OF THE ACTION TAKES PLACE, HENCE "KAZAMIDAI."

※ I LIVE ALONG THE SEIBU IKEBUKURO RAIL LINE, AND ONE OF THE STATIONS IS "FUJI-MIDAI" (LITERALLY, "THE PLACE TO VIEW MT. FUJI"), SO I ADDED "-MIDAI" TO THE CHARACTER "KAZE" TO CREATE "KAZAMIDAI."

DON'T YOU THINK A GIRL WHO DROOLS WHEN SHE FALLS ASLEEP IS CUTE?

WELL, THIS IS A COMIC ABOUT THAT SORT OF GIRL.


ZZZ
THANKS
ZZZZ...
DROOL
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!
BUT... SHE'S CUTE...

THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THESE YEARS!!

(CREATOR: . MANAGING EDITORS: N-ZUKA NASU K-JIMA)

AND NOW WE PRESENT "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X: ROBOT" WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTED MANGA...

OKYO
ズー
ZZZ
SSHHH
MONTHLY AFTERNOON
NWOOD
TAKET
ズー
ZZZ
SSHHH
SMASH IT!!
ゴゴゴ
DUNN
DUNN
DUNN

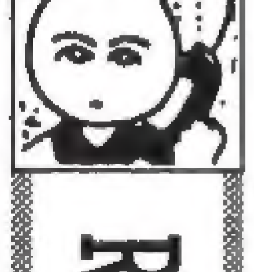
MARUI
EPTON
CHOOSE MACON FOR CARD LOANS!
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X: ROBOT !!
MAA !!

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X: ROBOT

BY METAL MAESTRO **RIICHI UESHIBA**

ガーーン
UE
RAAA
AAAWR
BAD CAT
PENMAX
TOSIH
ドガッ
KASMAA
AASH
P-PHONE
サ
STORE

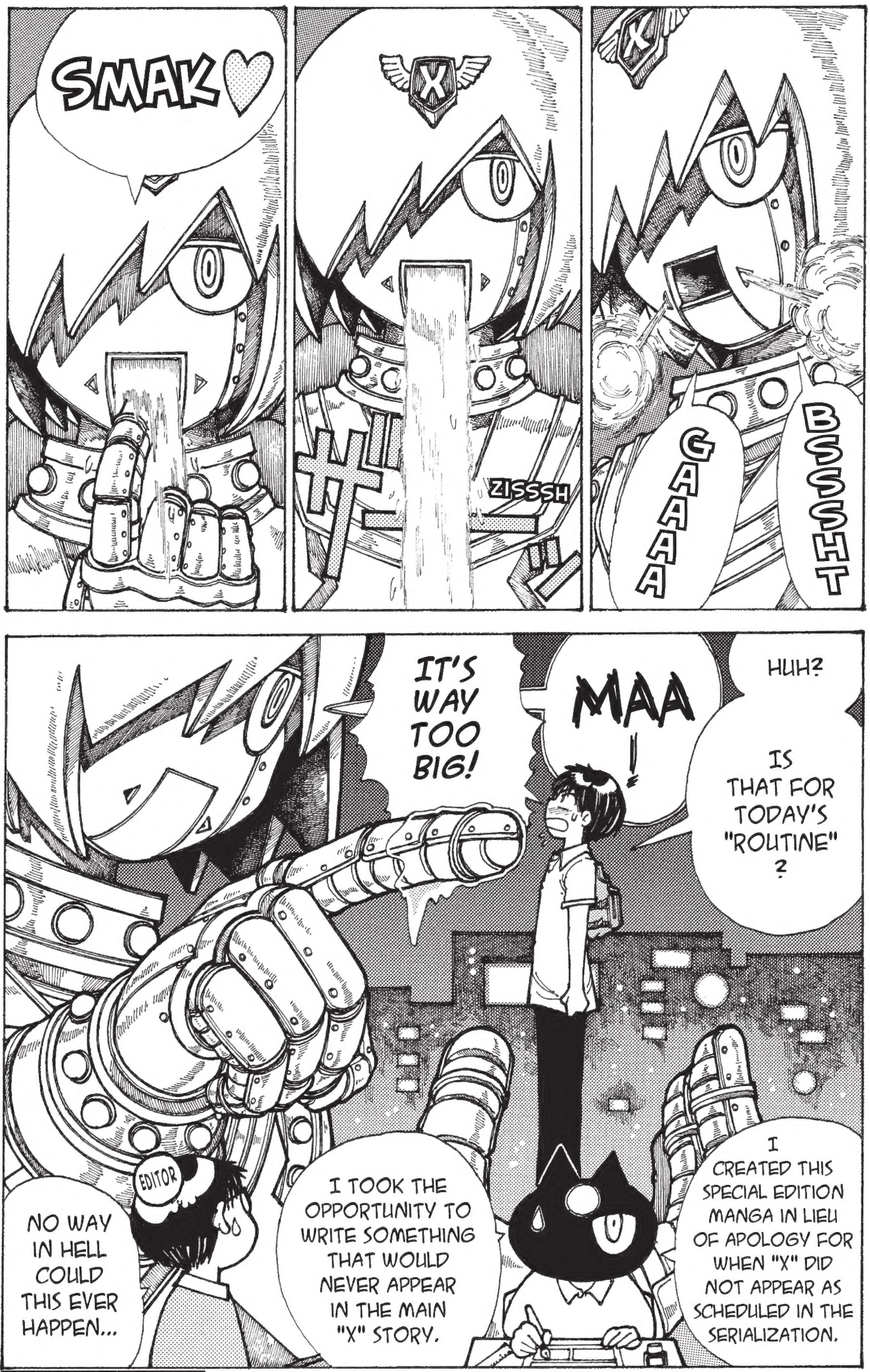
The Latest from the Author



Riichi Ueshiba

THIS MANGA SHOULD BE READ, IF POSSIBLE, WHILE LISTENING TO MASAMICHI AMANO'S SOUNDTRACK FOR "GXXXT ROBO" (OVA). I WAS LISTENING TO IT WHILE I WROTE THIS.

ZZAP
バチ
バチ
ZZAP
UE
UE
I WILL WORK HARD FOR NEXT MONTH'S DEADLIIINE!!
BA
ドドド
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ドドド
YOU DID IT, URA—ER, I MEAN...
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X: ROBOT!


BSSSHT
GAAAAA
ザーッ
ZISSSH
SMAK♡
HUH?
IS THAT FOR TODAY'S "ROUTINE"?
MAA!
IT'S WAY TOO BIG!
I CREATED THIS SPECIAL EDITION MANGA IN LIEU OF APOLOGY FOR WHEN "X" DID NOT APPEAR AS SCHEDULED IN THE SERIALIZATION.
I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE SOMETHING THAT WOULD NEVER APPEAR IN THE MAIN "X" STORY.
EDITOR
NO WAY IN HELL COULD THIS EVER HAPPEN...

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X: ROBOT

THE END

Mysterious Girlfriend X 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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